

National Capital Commission

Canada. It was only in 1865, almost eight years after its choice, that the public services were finally moved and housed in the new buildings erected for that purpose in Ottawa.

Since those primitive days the sub-Arctic village certainly has progressed. It was in 1896 that the then prime minister of Canada, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, envisaged, I believe for the first time, the future greatness of our nation and of this capital city. He referred to Ottawa in those days as the new Washington of the north. It was in 1899 that the first improvement commission, to which the hon. member for Ottawa West referred, was founded. From then onward the city progressed with amazing rapidity; so much so that in 1938 the Jacques Greber plan for the improvement of the capital area was adopted by the national government. This plan provided particularly for confederation square and the enlargement of Elgin street into the wide boulevard that we know today. In 1945, the federal district commission was enlarged, as well as the federal district area until it comprised an area of some 900 square miles.

Today we are again taking stock of our capital and its resources. We are again looking towards the expansion of the national capital area, and we are doubling this area. I submit that when we do so, we should do so in the light of the greatness that appears to be promised for our country; in the light also of modern conditions and modern methods of communication. Today the entire world has shrunk and distances no longer mean anything. If we consider modern technology and so on we can, and this is certainly no dream, look forward to the day when Ottawa will be one of the great cities of the world. It is fitting that it become one of the great cities of the world because it is destined to be the capital of one of the great countries of the world.

I feel that we should plan accordingly. We should plan for that greatness. We should plan for the future, and that is why I am in agreement with this resolution, with the planning and foresight that the Prime Minister has shown in introducing it to the house. Hon. members have spoken of the great technical problems that are connected with the future growth of this city. These problems include the mastery of the vexing question of pollution of the waters. They include also an increase in the number of bridges across the Ottawa river. For many years a new bridge across the Ottawa river has been requested by all the authorities. I should like to join with all those who have fought to obtain

[Mr. Martineau.]

this bridge, and I feel sure that with the right job of planning we will have it in the near future.

I am thinking also of the green belt area and of Gatineau park. I mentioned earlier that methods of communication have been revolutionized; that distances no longer mean anything. I think future residents of this capital would certainly appreciate a scenic driveway outside of Ottawa that would cover more than the few short miles that can be travelled today in minutes. We should plan for a long scenic driveway out of the city of Ottawa. When I speak of scenery, I naturally think of the Gatineau hills and my own constituency of Pontiac. I think that following the adoption of this resolution much thought should be given to the establishment of a beautiful, scenic driveway along the Ottawa river, along that great, historic and majestic river which was known for so many years before the dawn of our own era, and which was a great artery of travel many years ago.

In order to create a driveway, we must extend the capital area for 60 or perhaps 100 miles along the north and south shores of the Ottawa river. We should plan also for future bridges so that the inhabitants of our capital will be able to drive out to these beautiful places and have the necessary accommodation to enjoy them.

That means good roads. It also means stopping places along the road, parks and so on. These facilities have been begun but so far they are only a beginning. We must continue to expand them so that really and truly our capital city will be not only a city but a great area of beauty, a fitting tribute to the nation that we all know Canada is destined to be; and that it will also be a place to which diplomats from foreign countries and notable visitors may come, may relax and may enjoy something that is typically Canadian,—because it has scenery which is different and cannot be found anywhere else in the world,—is typical of our own country and of our sort of people. In doing that I think we are planning the future course of Ottawa. That is the way in which I like to look forward to the days ahead; to Ottawa, a great city, the capital of a great country.

In closing I should just like to read this quotation from the Scriptures. I may be something for our planning fathers to remember. I read as follows:

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

(Translation):

Mr. Gour: Mr. Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to commend the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) for having introduced this resolution in the house. However,