

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

no criticism on that score, although I think sometimes it has not got down the line quite far enough that this was important.

However, so far as the ministers are concerned, in this respect I have never had any complaint whatsoever. Since there is a new minister I think it would be reassuring to the people concerned if the minister would just repeat that assurance.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** I am happy to repeat that assurance, because the policy has been to ensure that any persons who were displaced by reason of the establishment of Terra Nova national park should have preference in employment opportunities.

Before the park was established a number of residents in the vicinity earned their living by cutting timber on lands which are now in the park. Care has been taken to ensure that their means of livelihood have not been adversely affected.

This has been done by making available to local residents a fair share of the employment opportunities within the park, and also by issuing permits to cut timber during the period October 1 to March 31. Furthermore, so there would be no elements of unfairness resulting from the difference between provincial and national parks' timber dues, the national parks' timber regulations were amended in 1958 to lower dues at Terra Nova to those charged by the province.

The highway construction program has also considerably assisted employment opportunities.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I apologize to the hon. member for Lincoln.

**Mr. Smith (Lincoln):** Mr. Chairman, I will be as brief as possible. I should like to congratulate the minister on being appointed to this very important portfolio and extend to him a very hearty welcome to come to the Niagara peninsula and visit some of the historic and important sites in that area.

I must make reference to Niagara-on-the-lake which is at the mouth of the Niagara river. Prior to confederation there was always a large garrison of British soldiers there. It was also an important place during the war of 1812 when the United States invaded Canada.

We have there Fort Mississauga, which is an old, stone and brick structure. We have Fort George, which has been restored by the provincial government, and we also have Navy Hall. As I said, prior to confederation there was always a garrison of British soldiers there; there were also a number of British navy units stationed there. Niagara-on-the-lake was also the seat of the first government of Upper Canada. So you will see, Mr.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Chairman, that it is a very important and very historic part of Canada.

Across the river is old Fort Niagara, which was built some 300 years ago by the French. It was later occupied by the British and now, of course, by the United States. They fly the three flags there every day, the French, British and United States.

On our side of the river we do not have buildings which are quite so old. Nevertheless we have buildings which are very important in so far as the history of Canada is concerned. There is Navy Hall and Fort George, Queenston Heights and Brock's monument. These are all under the care of the provincial government and they are being well taken care of. Thousands of tourists go there every year.

I am particularly concerned about Fort Mississauga, which was built, I believe, about 1813. Therefore it is almost 150 years old. Unfortunately it stands in the middle of a golf course. This golf course was used by British soldiers and British officers during the colonial days. When one mentions the restoration of Fort Mississauga one of course gets into trouble with the golfers. Nevertheless I do not think that obstacle should permanently stand in the way.

I am pleased that the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources went in there last year and did some repair work on the fort to keep it from falling apart and becoming dangerous. However, I do not feel that is enough and I hope that some time in the near future the minister will sit down with some of the people from the Niagara peninsula who are historically minded and work out some sort of long term program so that Fort Mississauga will be preserved.

As I say, it is a brick and stone building. It has about two storeys underground and two above. Troops were garrisoned there, guns were mounted on ramparts and other supplies were kept inside the fort. I feel it is one of the few historic buildings still standing in Canada in its original state.

We have many other forts which have been rebuilt, but this is the original fort. It is just the way it was built, with stone or brick walls. It would be very unfortunate to see it deteriorate and fall apart. Therefore I recommend to the minister that he give very serious consideration to doing something on a long term basis so this building will be preserved.

In this area there are something like 1,000 acres of land. Some of this land has been held by the government since before 1812 and some of it was acquired later. In years gone by it was used as a military training camp, but the change in military equipment has made it obsolete for those purposes,