

Supply—Northern Affairs

I say this for very basic and fundamental reasons. I know that area. I have been over it by helicopter and I have hiked into it. I have spoken to authorities who understand the situation of that area, and I say without fear of honest contradiction that under planned development Garibaldi can be a year round recreational resort unparalleled anywhere on the North American continent. In the spring and early summer I have seen there the alpine flora and fauna which world botanists have told me cannot be found in this abundance anywhere else in North America. I know its lakes and terrain. We have already had a report on its potentialities as a winter resort.

Where is Garibaldi located: It is in an area which, with properly developed roads, is within one and a half or two hours of the lower mainland of Vancouver, which contains approximately one million of the population of British Columbia. It is within easy reach not only of that one million population in the lower mainland of British Columbia, in the Vancouver area, but it is within two to five hours' journey of two and a half million people in the United States just below our border. In the Pacific coast area of Washington, Oregon and British Columbia everybody has heard of Mount Baker but Mount Baker, known as it is and used as it is, cannot touch the potentialities of Garibaldi.

What is the situation at the present moment? There is already a road under construction which is completed on gravel and mostly on hard pavement, which within a few months will be a first-class road from Vancouver to Squamish. From Squamish the road distance is very short into Garibaldi. Then we have the potentiality of the town of Haney. There are first class highways from Vancouver to Haney tying in with the trans-Canada highway and with the main United States north and south highways. Haney is at the foot of Garibaldi. The approach is there and it will not take very much to go from Haney, as the access from the south, to Garibaldi, or from Squamish on the north-western end into Garibaldi. Here we have an area of Canada on our Pacific coast which is mighty important now and which is going to grow in importance as the economy of Canada develops and as we open up the Pacific coast.

There are already one million people living in the lower mainland of British Columbia, in Vancouver, and there are two and a half million people to the south of us; and right at our doorstep, I maintain, is the most magnificent potential all-round resort on the entire North American continent.

That is as it is now. Why has it not been developed? It is because it is owned in

the crown's name by the province of British Columbia. It is a reserve for park purposes, and no government has yet done anything about it except make promises. We have no national park area whatsoever on the Pacific coast. Therefore I think we are entitled to ask for serious consideration to be given this matter by the minister and the government.

Why has it not been developed? I think I can speak with a little bit of authority here, having been the leader of the opposition in the British Columbia legislature for 12 years before I came to this House of Commons. I think it is because, in particular, of the present government we have in British Columbia who should be most severely damned and condemned for their attitude. They have not yet exercised any preparation or considered the approach of the federal government, and that is the stumbling block. It is not because the government of British Columbia does not recognize the potentiality. It is not because the federal government does not recognize the potentiality. It is not because the federal government is not prepared to take it over and develop it as a national park. It is because of the potentiality of the natural resources. What there may be of a mineral nature nobody knows because this is a crown reserve, but we do know that we have there some of the finest mature, virgin timber in all British Columbia. I have been told that its value is in the neighbourhood of \$60 million. That is the information given to me; I have no personal knowledge.

I think the government of British Columbia is stalling with regard to this matter because if the federal government takes over the area it will be on the basis that the resources go to the federal government. The government of British Columbia wishes to retain an interest in the forest resources and in the potential mineral resources. I think it is a crying shame that in 1961 we should still be in a position where because of the rigid attitude adopted by both sides the lower mainland area of British Columbia is stymied and cannot receive the benefit of what, I say again, would be the finest all-round resort and recreational area on the entire North American continent.

I know something about the government of British Columbia, coming as I do, from that province. In fact, I know a great deal about it because I was the first leader of the opposition against the present premier. I know his stubbornness and his selfishness; I know how he operates through expediency. I think this question will not come to a head until the federal government puts the government of British Columbia on the spot. I urge the government to put them right on the spot. Make a definite offer to take over

[Mr. Winch.]