

Mr. GIBSON: And in the parks!

Mr. DOLAN: If I forget the parks, Mr. Gibson always makes sure that I mention them. I am delighted to say that, despite the criticisms of some letter writers, I think that the facilities in our parks, considering the wealth of our country are just as good as any facilities I have seen in the parks of the United States where I have gone; and I think the parks facilities are operated very efficiently.

The CHAIRMAN: What are the most frequent criticisms which come from tourists? Is there any complaint about overcharging? Trying to take advantage of tourists?

Mr. DOLAN: Strangely enough, it is the rare person who writes to our Bureau and complains about having been over-charged. In fact, it is the other way around. We have letters coming to us praising, one, the customs and immigration officers; two, the police officers; and three, the fair charges for the services they get. The serious criticism is that of the highways of Canada. We have more complaints about highways than any other matters which come within the ordinary travel experience of a tourist. Eighty-five per cent of our traffic to Canada comes on rubber wheels, and if we are going to maintain that, and certainly if we are going to increase it, there has got to be one tremendous road building program in Canada from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. I do not think you should look at road building from the viewpoint that it is a costly proposition. In my opinion an investment in highways in Canada will bring a bigger return to the people of this country, the treasuries of the provinces, and the treasury of the Dominion also, than any other investment that can be made. It is not a matter of cost, it is an investment proposition.

The CHAIRMAN: You know a place called Peterborough?

Mr. DOLAN: I have heard of it.

The CHAIRMAN: Our friend Duffus comes from there. There was an article in the Peterborough paper the other day about the expenditures of tourists on a per capita basis, comparing the United States and Canada, and this statement was made: If Americans were to spend in Canada on a per capita basis what we spend in the States, our tourist intake in dollars should be over a billion. Does that mean that there is a greater proportion of our population travelling in the United States and spending tourist money there than there is of Americans coming here?

Mr. DOLAN: Yes, Senator Buchanan. Within the last eighteen months or more there has been a terrible rush of Canadians to the United States. It is very reasonable when you look at it in this manner, that for nearly six years Canadians were penned up in this country and were not permitted to travel, and for a very good reason. The minute the restrictions went off of foreign exchange control, thousands of Canadians who had not been in the United States for six years immediately rushed down to California and Florida and some of the bordering states, and the per capita expenditure of Canadians is much higher than the per capita expenditure of Americans. But never forget this point, that we are only twelve million people, and they are 140 million; and from a dollar standpoint we are always in the black; and last year we were in the black close to \$90,000,000; and that is not a bad position to be in. We Canadian people, according to all the statistics, spend more on travel than any nation of twelve million people in the world. That is why, on a per capita basis, our expenditures are shown to be a little larger; but with the money in the till we are much better off, and that after all is quite an important factor in tourist traffic.

The CHAIRMAN: Have any other members a question to ask Mr. Dolan?