

National Parks Act

days. I am never quite sure what these officials mean by the far north and I think it is time we showed Canadians what the north really is.

Geographically speaking, you do not have to go too far north of Toronto to be in what I call the north. You can find around Hudson Bay and James Bay climatic conditions that are not too remote from those of the North-west Territories.

Mr. Nesbitt: The government likes showing the Americans what the north is like.

Mr. Peters: Yes, but not Canadians. I think such a park should take in the upper Ottawa River, Lake Timiskaming and particularly the narrowest part where there is only half a mile between the province of Ontario and the province of Quebec, an area where much of Canada's history was written. In addition, there is little doubt on the part of most Canadians that a great deal could be done to develop interest in the north if the federal government were to establish a park embracing areas such as Moosonee, James Bay, the mouth of the Moose, the Harricanaw, the Albany and several other rivers that flow into James Bay. Such a park would let the people of Ontario, almost half of Canada's population, know that the centre of Canada also has a deep sea port.

Many people who visit James Bay are surprised to see the blood-red water in the spring, and to realize that across the bay lies the sea, and further out the ocean, yet they are only 500 miles from the city of Toronto. For many travellers it would only be a day's trip, and they would be able to take full advantage of the unique facilities offered in the area. This, surely, is reason enough for establishing a national park there.

I do not think a Crown corporation in the field of national parks is required. I think most Canadians would agree with me that we are all willing to make a contribution to the establishment of national parks across Canada in order to portray the attractions of a given area to all Canadians. We do not want to make money out of this; we want merely to provide a service. Those of us who do not use the park facilities should nevertheless make a contribution; the parks should not be dependent upon the pay-as-you-go system.

I understand we may establish a Crown corporation to take over the Post Office. It may well be said that this will not make the service any worse than it is now, and that may be true. Many people are complaining

[Mr. Peters.]

about the Post Office today. Many of us who would like to have the problem solved even if it means establishing a Crown corporation. I do not think that is true in relation to national parks; I believe that most of the squawk comes from a very few people who want to start drilling or bush-cutting operations in our parks. We are facing this problem in Ontario; it is not all one-sided.

• (9:10 p.m.)

It is true that Ontario will have no parks by the time we get around to deciding that the government of Ontario must have responsibility for parks and for bush-cutting in them. While I agree that cutting must take place, it should not be done for economic advantage but for maintenance of the forest in the area in order that the land may be enjoyed in perpetuity by the people of Canada.

This also applies to our national parks. It may be all right for us to have a small mine in Banff or Jasper National Park, but it seems to me it is of much more interest to our people to know that 100 years from now others will be able to look at Canada as it was when development had not taken place. Surely that is why we are keeping the parks—to provide others with the opportunity of looking at something they would not have the opportunity of seeing in any other way. I think a park is a living history and the living geography of the nation. Our people are to be congratulated for their foresight in establishing these parks.

The problems resulting from people being allowed to live in Jasper and Banff National Parks must be solved. The only simple way they can be solved is by incorporating these areas into municipalities with limited expansion. They should be allowed to associate with the provincial government in order to get into the normal stream of municipal development. The people living in these national parks have an obligation to their area. They must provide the facilities needed. So far as I am concerned, they have done this: they have provided facilities and have done their job.

We should at least make them free to enjoy municipal government. They should have this as a right. It should be established that they can participate with the Alberta government but their expansion should be contained by the National Parks Department. In order to accomplish this, we do not need to establish a Crown corporation. I am not opposed to Crown corporations, but normally a Crown