

Supply—Northern Affairs

Nova Scotia regards tourism as a very great natural resource. We live next door to some 40 million people in the New England states some of whom come to the maritime provinces every year seeking relief from the heat and in order to enjoy the scenery for which we are so famous, to take advantage of our summer breezes and the salt water. When they come they expect to see something and more will come when more is provided for them to see. Any investment in this respect will be repaid in tourist dollars.

In the development of any such long term plan it should be remembered that the story of Louisburg is more than just that of a fortress besieged and finally abolished. It is rather the story of one of the great cornerstones of Canadian history when those who were enemies and soldiers, fighting outside this fortress at the dawn of July 22 of 1758, became neighbours and were perhaps the first Canadians by the time dusk fell. Their cannons and swords and implements of war became axes and ploughshares, which were used to build our country, and I think this area should be used as an illustration of what can be done by co-operation and work between two great races. The descendants of these people, both French and English, remember their historical background and this would be a wonderful monument to their history.

I would like to associate myself with the remarks made this afternoon by my colleague, the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria, who spoke of the Cape Breton Highlands national park in the counties of Inverness and Victoria. The increasing number of tourists visiting the park amply illustrates the value of these parks to the tourist industry of Nova Scotia, as they afford an excellent opportunity to people to examine the scene of Cabot's exploits—the Cabot trail. I, like that hon. member, would like to see a winter works program developed in connection with the park and I would like to thank the minister for the program he instituted last winter which provided employment for local people when the pulpwood industry was not as prosperous as it has been in previous years. This year, once again, employment will be required in the area. In fact, if ever there was a time to find employment for people through the development of our great natural resources that time will be during the coming winter.

I feel that the government should consider the question of wages and salaries paid in this connection. There is no reason why the people who work there should not be paid in accordance with the standard set for mainland workers.

[Mr. MacLellan.]

I have emphasized the importance of the tourist industry in Nova Scotia and I commend to the minister the most serious consideration of the value of spending money in developing tourist facilities for the Cape Breton Highlands national park and also the great national landmark of Louisburg.

Mr. Pickersgill: I have a few observations to make and a few questions to ask of the minister, although I am not going to make a speech. I am sure that will cause hon. members on the other side of the committee to rejoice. The first thing I want to say something about is to remind the minister—I do not need to, I am sure—that when he does reply I would hope he will say something about the treatment of Eskimos in the province of Newfoundland as compared with the other provinces, in addition to what he said the other day.

The second point I should like to refer to is the electricity program and I am speaking about this on item No. 1 because I do not think that perhaps it would be in order on any other item since regrettably in my opinion, and in the opinion of my friends on this side, that program at this time does not include the province of Newfoundland despite very strenuous efforts to have it included.

The minister will no doubt recall that on February 19 of this year the Prime Minister was in St. John's to deliver a speech for the purpose, I judge, of influencing the voters in Newfoundland, and when he arrived he received a letter from the premier of Newfoundland written that same day, parts of which the Prime Minister quoted in his speech, and which he used to a certain effect. I will not bore the committee by going into further detail with regard to what effect, because I am sure the minister would get up at once and say that by quoting the Prime Minister I was out of order. I will not put the minister to the embarrassment of doing that. But this letter did ask the Prime Minister and, through the Prime Minister, the government to give consideration to a request from the government of Newfoundland. Now this letter was produced as a sessional paper on July 3, 1958, in response to a motion which I made asking for this correspondence and apparently it never received any reply except the reply which the Prime Minister gave at the public meeting and over the air on that occasion. I am not going to read the whole letter, but I would like to draw attention to two paragraphs. The second paragraph of the letter reads as follows:

You did not find it possible, apparently, to accede to my request to you that Canadian government financial assistance be given to hydro-electric (or water power) stations in Newfoundland,