

that there is no unanimity of opinion, and it is not my purpose to ask the house to make any pronouncement about it at this time.

This bill is for the continuation of the development of the capital area consisting of Ottawa and the surrounding district. I think there is much to be said for the view that it is something that the Canadian nation would wish to do entirely regardless of any other consideration. I think it is something that the Canadian nation feels should keep pace with the development of the country. The appropriation suggested at this time would not be required, and would probably not be justified, if we in this house felt that the Canadian nation had reached the full stage of its national development and of its importance in world affairs. But as the nation develops—and I think we all feel that it will develop for a long period still, and that this immense area of the habitable portion of the globe is to be the home of a much larger population than the twelve million people who control it at the present time—as that goes on, it will be necessary that the national capital keep pace with the development of the nation. In order that that may be possible I think it is only the part of prudence and foresight to lay out plans which will not be carried out at any early day but which it would be possible to realize without having to destroy too much placed in the way of their realization when the proper time comes. It was for that purpose, and it is for the same purpose, that these capital sums are being asked parliament to appropriate. There are a great many places in Canada where the development has been such that it has necessitated the tearing down of things which would still intrinsically have had some value but which had to make way for something more useful which the developments had made necessary.

As I said at the resolution stage, the work will be somewhat greater in extent than it had been, hitherto, because of two factors. One is that over the past five or six years the development of our people as a nation has proceeded with greater rapidity than it had at any previous period. Canada's position as one of the nations of the world has asserted itself to a much greater degree during the last few years than had happened at any time before, though it must be at once stated that the groundwork for that development and for that expansion had been laid from the very beginning. This is just one example of what I have in mind. The exchange of diplomatic representatives between the Canadian government and the other governments has brought to Ottawa a large body of officials represent-

ing other nations of the world. Their presence in Ottawa has put some strain upon the buildings, upon the layout which had previously sufficed for the requirements of the business transacted on behalf of the nation at the national capital, and that is still going on.

The second factor which makes it appear desirable to proceed a little more rapidly is that so much of the maintenance and development work had to give way to more urgent matters during the war period, and they had to be deferred until this time. The federal district commission is like any other large body in Canada. It had to allow activities that were not of vital necessity to win the war to be deferred until the war had been won.

This bill does not deal with any general plan of development which may be decided on for the capital, and I would not expect that there would be any decision made at this time or in the immediate future blueprinting what was to be done and at what dates it would be done. But a general over-all plan is being prepared which would make possible the development of a national capital with a population two or three times what it is at the present time, showing what a city of that size as the national capital would be apt to require. It is suggested in this bill that there be such cooperation between the various authorities concerned as would prevent the doing of things which would be obstacles to the realization of that larger plan, as and when conditions made it proper to develop it.

To cover expenditures of a capital type, such as those for the purchase of lands and works, the development of the parkway system and so on, the bill before the house provides that over a period of years the sum of \$3,000,000 may be allocated to the commission, as a similar sum of \$3,000,000 was made available between 1928 and 1935 under the terms of the 1928 act. To cover the increased current expenditures an increase in the annual grant from \$200,000 to \$300,000 is also requested.

The part of the work of the commission which will be connected with the broader developments of the capital will require special arrangements. As hon. members know, the government has had Mr. Jacques Greber to advise on the general planning. I was much interested and impressed by what was said last evening by the hon. member for Eglinton. I think all Canadians wish this capital to be expressive of Canadian mentality and Canadian conditions, that it be the capital of the Canadian nation and not a pocket edition of anything already in existence else-