

Supply—Northern Affairs

problem in so far as damage to the crops outside is concerned. When they are outside the park they are free game for hunters from whom the federal government secures a moderate amount of money through issuing licences. I presume the same applies with respect to birds, and if it is a question of compensation for damage done in a matter of this kind I believe it comes down to a question of the licence fee charged to the hunter to hunt this game and I frankly do not know where one can draw the line in so far as damage done to crops is concerned. They should be limited to the area within the national park, though that is difficult to achieve because these animals can move a considerable distance in a relatively short period of time and if good foliage or greener fields are farther away then the animals will go that distance in order to obtain good feeding. I am wondering where the line should be drawn.

While I am on my feet I want to make reference to what was said earlier in connection with the proposed ski slide in the Riding Mountain national park. This would be a very desirable undertaking and perhaps if we had a greater population in the immediate area the project would meet with even greater enthusiasm than it has so far. The minister has referred to the problem of removing trees from the Riding Mountain area where the ski slide might be established, and the possible effect there might be resulting therefrom because of quicker run-offs, and maybe adding to a rather difficult problem that exists in that area now in so far as flood conditions are concerned. But along with it, as I have understood the situation, arises the problem of winterizing facilities in the park area. My understanding is that the facilities there for the accommodation of the public are privately owned and that, as such, it would be private initiative that would have to winterize those things to make suitable accommodation out of them.

There is another problem that arises in this same connection, namely the facilities for reaching the park. The railway facilities are not immediately adjacent to the park. You have to go in either by way of McCreary or Erickson which are some little distance out of the park area. Otherwise it would be largely a matter of automobile or bus travel. However, that is perhaps something that does not stand completely in the way but it is one of the problems that arise therefrom. But having regard at the same time to the people who would use the skiing facilities, it would look to me as though it would be largely a holidaying crowd there for week ends or longer periods. Perhaps we should assist in

[Mr. Weir.]

providing facilities for those people, but I cannot see it immediately as a place where people would go in only for the week end for skiing purposes. It would look to be a project for a sort of winter resort. Maybe that has something to commend itself and perhaps it will as time goes on. But in the same light I point out this other fact in so far as skiing is concerned.

I must confess that I do not know where our skiing enthusiasts in Manitoba reside. We have had two ski undertakings in the southern part of Manitoba, one at La Rivière and the other at Roseisle, that were given considerable encouragement by week-end excursions by both our railways. I think a good deal of pleasure was gained therefrom and to some extent they are being continued, but the railways have discontinued the service which was a week-end service, I think maybe largely on Sunday. I would hope that the minister would continue to give his usual careful attention to this undertaking. If we can have a winter resort in Manitoba, I am all for it. But at the same time I think that a careful survey should be made of the population that is likely to use those facilities and to what extent tourists or ski enthusiasts from outside of our province might be induced to use those same facilities and certainly those from areas other than those immediately adjacent to it. In reviewing this matter I hope the minister will continue to keep those areas in mind.

Mr. Knowles: I should like to say just a word once again in support of the request and the very good case made by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre in respect of the establishment of a bus depot at Wasagaming in Riding Mountain national park. I need not develop the argument because it has been put very well, but I should like to ask the minister specifically whether his investigation in this matter included conversations or correspondence with the bus people. If so—well, I need not pursue that question because I see him shaking his head.

Mr. Lesage: No.

Mr. Knowles: The minister did not get in touch with the bus people?

Mr. Lesage: No; I did not.

Mr. Knowles: I do not think that is a satisfactory situation. I realize it was the minister's predecessor whom we addressed on this question—

Mr. Lesage: No; it was myself.

Mr. Knowles: It was in December of last year.

Mr. Lesage: It was I.