

"The delegation wished to make inquiries about the plans of the F.D.C. in Ste. Cecile de Masham for the development of Gatineau Park and wished also to state the problems arising from the carrying out of that plan. Mr. Cram, secretary of the F.D.C., replied to the delegation that practically all the properties for the development of Gatineau Park were purchased; this constitutes more than one-quarter of the municipality of Ste. Cecile de Masham, if we keep strictly to the Richards plan of beautification.

"However, the F.D.C. is studying the extra cost of expenditures which would be necessary to the Greber Plan were used for the development of Gatineau Park. The Greber Plan would include more than half, nay, approximately two-thirds of the Parish of Ste. Cecile de Masham. The Secretary of the F.D.C. stated that it was found to be too costly to carry out the latter plan and the F.D.C. would not do so but would adhere strictly to the Richards Plan; this was reassuring to the delegation which protested vigorously against the implementation of the Greber Plan.

"On the other hand, the municipality and school commission of Ste Cecile de Masham will not receive grants to compensate for the losses of taxes before 1951, since at that time there was nothing on the statutes to compel that Federal District Commission to reimburse the above-mentioned local organizations. As far as the church is concerned, the F.D.C. is not provided any compensation. The latter has not foreseen, it seems, the situation which is becoming more complicated for the future of local bodies.

"Neither has the F.D.C. studied the question of the decreasing municipal assessment which occurs after it has bought the farms; this difference in assessment is the result of demolition of farm buildings and the almost complete abandonment of cultivation of those farms acquired. This municipal devaluation leads automatically to a reduction of grants in lieu of taxes formerly collected from those properties. Mr. Cram took note of those facts for future studies.

"With regard to the purchase of the properties necessary for carrying out their plan, the F.D.C. has not seen fit to offer compensation more generous or at least as generous as that offered by certain companies which are buying land for the construction of a dam. These companies, besides decently compensating the property owners concerned, are constructing buildings or dams which increase the municipal assessment of the region concerned and thereby increase the revenues based on the real estate tax. The same is true of the grants which most of the companies give to the church.

"The F.D.C. was not able to do anything more than deplore the lamentable situation of a certain property owner who, as he was not able to obtain sufficient money from the sale of his land to the F.D.C., was obliged to turn to the municipality in order that he could continue to live a while waiting for his old age pension. (The case of Mr. A. Philippe gives everyone the impression that the F.D.C. agents took advantage of his naïveté).

"From the statements of Mr. Cram we learned that no further development of tourist building will be possible around the lakes acquired. 'We are not buying any farms fit for agriculture', he stated, although it was pointed out to him that there were several which had been bought. There are about 30 farms where families formerly lived on the produce of their farm, although several included some logging to ensure greater success in the operation of their farms.

"We received a promise that the attention of the F.D.C. would be drawn to the plague of weeds on the farms purchased by the Commission; this nuisance is due to the abandonment of those cultivable lands and constitutes a threat to the operation of a number of neighbouring farms.

"Finally we were promised that in the near future someone from the F.D.C. Information Service would be sent out to show our people motion pictures on