

National Parks

In this particular case a request came in November, 1956, for the use of these headwaters for the development of hydro at the Wreck Cove plant. It was contended that the use of these waters within these 10 square miles could boost the capacity of the plant considerably. The two governments of Nova Scotia and Canada undertook a joint survey to ascertain the facts from an engineering and economic point of view. The report recommended that these approximately 10 square miles would provide sufficient water to increase the output of the plant and make the provision of hydro power in the Wreck Cove plant much cheaper and much more satisfactory.

I did mention a week ago that I was very sorry that we had to withdraw this land from the park. It is true that the lands are not too valuable from a scenic point of view because there was much of the same type of land in the park, that is in this south-central part of the park. The provision of this additional power would help the provincial program and improve their economic position by providing excess power for peaking. We did try to obtain additional lands from the province of Nova Scotia. I believe this was referred to by the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria last week. We looked at the lands to the north and west of the park, and as I stated at that time, those lands were similar to areas already in the park. The situation was further complicated by the fact that there were fishing villages along the shore which would add many complexities to our already difficult problem of administering parks.

Now, the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria mentioned that the fishing villages would be an asset to the park. I agree with him that they would be a great tourist asset.

But the task of administering a park with private land within that park is extremely difficult. So for these reasons we decided not at this time to take on these difficulties but to look around for something else that we could get in compensation. So we asked the Nova Scotia government if they would make available to us those five acres of land close to the Champlain Habitation which would make this national historic park a much better place from a scenic and general attractiveness point of view. They assented to that proposal and we have now made arrangements with the province to get the five acres on the Champlain Habitation in exchange for the ten square miles in the park.

Mr. Winch: Five acres or five square miles?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Five acres. The Champlain Habitation is a very small area.

[Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle).]

By acreage there is no comparison but many people who have been down there visiting have expressed approval. I think the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate made mention of this matter a week ago, by expressing his gratitude or appreciation that we had been able to get this land for the national historic parks. I think that is the summary of what I said a week ago as to why we are withdrawing this land from the park.

Mr. Herridge: We in this group and, I think, a good many other members in the house are interested in the maintenance of our parks and their extension wherever possible and wise. But in view of the explanation given by the minister as to the need for the withdrawal of this land and also his reference to the commendation from the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate we in this group, without any further knowledge of the situation, support the bill because, while it is unfortunate to withdraw land from our parks, we think it is in the public interest at this time.

Mr. Benidickson: What will the area of this park be after the ten square miles are withdrawn?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): About 400 square miles. I will pass the map across the floor of the house if the hon. member would like to look at it and see the size of the area that is being withdrawn.

Clause agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle) moved the third reading of the bill.

He said: As this bill, if enacted, will divest the crown of an area of land in Cape Breton Highlands national park, title to which is presently in the crown, may I say that His Excellency the Governor General was informed with respect thereto and has given his consent to the consideration of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

CANADIAN FARM LOAN ACT**AMENDMENT INCREASING AUTHORIZED CAPITAL TO \$6 MILLION**

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Canadian Farm Loan Act to increase the authorized capital of the Canadian farm loan board from \$4 million to \$6 million.