

in the open, not behind a smokescreen of a Crown corporation.

Now, I should like to turn to a park closer to home. In Riding Mountain National Park we have an administration which doesn't seem to care what happens to the park. The administration there seems intent on discouraging visitors, intent on forcing out the cottagers and intent on forcing out the local campers. All this directly concerns the developed townsite of Clear Lake or Wasagaming. This townsite was developed many years ago. It is well built up, and has provided ideal summer recreation of the residents of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Now the administration seems intent on placing Riding Mountain National Park out of bounds to the citizens of Manitoba. No doubt it will soon be putting a fence around the park to prevent access by visitors.

The roads in the park are a disgrace. No. 10 Highway which runs from the United States border to northern Manitoba is virtually impassable at certain times of the year. Year after year, the park administration promises that it will be widened. Nothing is done, though, except for patching in the worst places. Motorists avoid the road whenever possible. It is a bar to progress in western Manitoba. The deer in the park are a cause of constant depredation as far as surrounding farms are concerned. During winters of deep snow, the deer leave the park, as they must, and invade the surrounding farmland. In a year like the present, when there is considerable grain in swath, the damage done can be formidable.

What is the response to calls made to the department? The deer are no responsibility of theirs, they say. This is in line with the thinking of this government—that people are a nuisance. No compensation is given to those whose crops are destroyed, a perfect example of confiscation without recompense, and especially harsh because the burden falls on relatively few individuals.

I should like to read at this point a letter written on behalf of the rural municipality of Bolton to the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Stewart) constituency which borders on my own.

Dear Sir:

Recently the Council of the rural municipality of Bolton has received many complaints from residents along the Riding Mountain National Park about elk and deer causing damage to unharvested crops in this area. The residents have requested that compensation be paid for the damage. This situation is becoming worse every year with the increasing population of elk and deer in the Riding Mountain

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National Park. The extended hunting seasons along this park have not helped to eliminate this problem.

Since the Council has no jurisdiction over the way the provincial and federal governments operate within their park areas, the Council suggests that possibly this compensation should be paid through an arrangement made between both governments or that the park areas be fenced in such a way as not to let the wildlife out.

We have requested support from other municipalities surrounding the Riding Mountain Park.

Yours truly,
R. D. Halwas,
Secretary-Treasurer.

So you see, Mr. Speaker, this is a serious problem as far as the farm people living around the park are concerned. Action must be taken to see that the animals of which we are so proud are controlled. Incidentally, in the field of game management, the park officials have shown little or no imagination.

There is a further problem in the Riding Mountain National Park which needs airing at this time. Because the park is situated in the middle of a built up agricultural area, it has become a considerable bar to development there. It is not that the people want to have the park destroyed, but they are concerned because park officials have consistently refused to allow a road to be built from the town of Grandview in the north to the town of Rosburn on the south side of the park. The only other road to traverse the park, which is about 70 miles long, is No. 10 Highway on the eastern side, so those who live in the western area need to go many miles to get around the park. The need for another road through the park from north to south has been increased by the building of a cheese factory on the south side of the park. Producers in the north are at a disadvantage because of the great distance milk trucks must travel. Eventually, a second road must traverse the park in the Grandview area. The chambers of commerce in the district have for many months attempted to arrange a meeting with park officials, but to no avail. Opinion as to the quality of the administration of the Riding Mountain National Park has sunk to a new low among citizens surrounding the park. It will take a long time before this administration can regain any credibility among the people of this area.

• (3:30 p.m.)

I cannot see that the passage of this bill will do anything but set up a faceless Crown corporation behind which the government can hide and can still control all that goes on. This crown corporation will further remove