

National Parks Act

park in connection with hydro services. These have been provided by the purchase of power from the Manitoba Power Commission which in turn is sold to power users within the park. It has been suggested that the rates under this arrangement are rather exorbitant when compared to those prevailing generally in the province of Manitoba.

For example, a user of electric energy in the park pays ten cents for the first 50 kilowatt hours, eight cents for the next 150, and five cents for the balance as compared with the rates outside of eight cents for the first 50 kilowatt hours, two cents for the next 150, and one cent for the balance. It is pointed out that because of these comparatively high rates many of the camp operators, motel owners, cottage owners and so on are converting to gas and oil for cooking and heating purposes. I am hopeful that arising out of this new bill the power situation existing in Riding Mountain national park will be taken into consideration. I understand that several petitions have been presented already to the minister and I hope it will be found possible to get around these difficulties.

Mr. J. H. Blackmore (Leithbridge): Mr. Speaker, I do not desire to repeat what I had to say the other night with reference to Waterton Lakes park, but I do wish to draw the attention of the house to the fact that the appropriation for Banff last year was much larger than the appropriation for Waterton Lakes park. I am not advocating any reduction in the appropriation for Banff, but I do want the house to remember the two or three points I made the other night.

The first was that for various reasons Waterton Lakes park seems to have been neglected for the last twenty years. The amount of money spent on the park has been negligible. I do not think it was because the department was unwilling to spend the money; it just was not spent. That deficiency should be made up.

My second point was that Waterton Lakes park is just as important as Banff and Jasper, or perhaps even more so. This park is a show window for Canada. This is most significant in connection with tourist traffic coming into Alberta. If people get the right impression of Alberta or Canadian parks when they enter Waterton Lakes park, they will be encouraged to go on to Banff, Jasper and the other Alberta and Canadian parks. If they do not get the right impression they are likely to turn back and go home. We cannot afford to neglect this opportunity. In this connection let it be remembered that this country is constantly faced with an adverse balance of trade with the United States. We should keep

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

in mind that one of the easiest ways to bring about a favourable balance of trade with that country is to bring their tourists here and get them to spend their money.

The third point is that there are tremendous possibilities of development in Waterton Lakes park, more so than in any other park in Alberta, and perhaps in Canada. Let the government keep these considerations in mind when they come to make up the appropriations for next year.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

On section 1—*Administration, management and control.*

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): I understand that the commissioner has been done away with and that these matters have been under the control of the minister. What change will be brought about by this section?

Mr. Lesage: It is simply to bring the statute in line with the present situation. The position of commissioner of parks was abolished when the Department of Mines and Resources was established. The present section reads:

There shall be a commissioner of national parks who, subject to the direction of the minister, shall control, manage and administer the parks.

As I said, the functions of the commissioner have been abolished and we are rewriting the section to provide that the administration, management and control of the parks shall be under the direction of the minister.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): If the commissionership was abolished when the parks came under the Department of Mines and Resources, who has been running the thing up to now?

Mr. Lesage: The Minister of Mines and Resources and then the Minister of Resources and Development.

Mr. Knowles: Under what authority?

Section agreed to.

Section 2 agreed to.

On section 3—*Leases.*

Mr. Harris: Unfortunately the minister in charge of this bill will not be able to be present tonight so at eight o'clock we will proceed with the resolution standing in the name of the Minister of National Defence. Should that be completed we will proceed with Bill No. 29, to amend the Customs Act.

Section stands.

Progress reported.

At six o'clock the house took recess.