

Federal District Commission

1919. These dates will indicate that it was a matter that was being dealt with not only by one party but by whatever administration had responsibility for the affairs of the country.

The act of 1919 increased the annual grant to \$150,000 for a ten-year period from July 1, 1919, and then in 1927 the name of the commission was changed from the Ottawa improvement commission to the federal district commission. The act passed in that year increased the powers of the commission to enable it to extend its activities to areas or districts outside the capital proper, and provided for the appointment of a commissioner as a representative of the city of Hull. The dominion government, I am told, was actuated by the desire to widen the scope of the commission's functions to embrace not only Ottawa and the immediate vicinity but Hull and the adjoining municipalities on both sides as an integral part of the national capital area.

The act of 1927 also increased the annual grant of the commission to \$250,000, but this was reduced again to \$200,000 in 1928 when provision was made for a grant of \$3,000,000 to be expended upon capital improvements over a period of years. The beautification and improvement works which had been commenced in 1900 for Ottawa and district, under these authorizing acts of parliament, consist of parks, landscapes, driveways, the latter extending from Rockcliffe park east of the city of Ottawa to Aylmer road west of the city of Hull. The driveway follows as closely as convenient the banks of the Ottawa and Rideau rivers and the Rideau canal. Approximately twenty-two miles of driveways have been constructed. Gatineau park, comprising 16,000 acres situated in the Laurentian hills on the Quebec side of the river, about seven air miles northwest of Ottawa, is being preserved in its natural state of wooded hills, valleys, lakes and streams, for the enjoyment of the public.

By orders in council the responsibility of improving and maintaining the grounds of Rideau Hall, those surrounding the national research council buildings and other dominion government buildings in Ottawa was transferred from the Department of Public Works to the commission in the years 1932 to 1934. Amounts for this work are voted annually by parliament in estimates approved by the governor in council.

The number of properties now serviced by the commission is 110. The land now owned or controlled by the federal district commission in and around Ottawa, exclusive of the 16,000-acre national park, is: Owned by the federal district commission, 758 acres; leased from the crown, 224 acres; leased from

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

the city of Ottawa and developed and maintained by the commission, 129 acres; grounds of government buildings maintained through the instrumentality of the commission under these orders in council, about 200 acres, or a total of grounds thus administered and maintained by the commission in Ottawa and the immediate vicinity of 1,311 acres. In addition, as I stated a moment ago, there is the 16,000 acres of land in the Gatineau park.

The leader of the opposition in his inquiry the other day, seemed particularly interested in having a statement of receipts and expenditures of the commission since its inception. The figures I have been given are as follows:

Statutory grants from 1899 to 1909, \$60,000 a year for 10 years.....	\$600,000
Statutory grants from 1909 to 1919, \$100,000 a year for 10 years.....	1,000,000
Statutory grants from 1919 to 1927, \$150,000 a year for 8 years.....	1,200,000
Statutory grants from 1927 to 1928, 1 year.....	250,000
Statutory grants from 1928 to 1946, \$200,000 a year for 18 years.....	3,600,000
In addition thereto, special grant made under the act of 1928.....	3,000,000
Grand total	\$9,650,000

In addition to that there have been votes by parliament over that period of \$1,162,788. There have also been advances from government departments for work on the maintenance of grounds and new buildings of \$2,016,766, making a grand total of \$12,829,554 over the forty-eight years.

I come now to the expenditures for that period: For the construction and maintenance of the parkway system, \$10,690,117; for the maintenance of grounds of government buildings, \$1,375,125; for the development of grounds of new government buildings, \$641,640.

In connection with the future work of the commission there are a few points I should like to mention. First of all I wish to point out that there is no provision in this bill or in anything parliament is being asked to pass making this a national war memorial. This is a bill to amend the act respecting the federal district commission, and these amendments are required, and I trust will be made by the house, entirely apart from any idea as to whether or not the development of the national capital should be classified as a national war memorial. I know that the Prime Minister has urged that the development of the national capital might be a fitting way for the nation to express its gratification at the role played by the Canadian nation in the last war. That is a matter about which it was apparent from the debate last evening