

There again, I perceive currents of local public opinion which might give rise to a brilliant and harmonious future. Already some local organizations are making studies with a view to the opening of new streets around the centre of the parish. Certain studies are also being made among the membership of the U.C.C. and the Farmers' organization with respect to the improvement of the agricultural or horticultural industry. Indeed it has been found, for example, that the local market is being invaded by dairies from the capital; one dairy alone is said to be selling during the summer season an average of 2,000 quarts of milk a day in the region, yet no farmer in the area is supplying milk to that dairy. That local increase will become more pronounced in the future as the anticipated development takes place in the fields of house-building and tourism. If public opinion is sufficiently aroused, it seems that the agricultural class will increase the value of its operations, as it will have a local market capable of absorbing its production.

Public opinion is already calling for an increase in the tourist industry as the natural industry of the locality; the industry will be based on what the locality can offer in the way of natural beauty, and also its privileged situation close to the National Capital and in the National Capital District according to the Greber plan.

From the foregoing, I think it is permissible to contemplate a brilliant future, counting on co-operation between the municipal bodies and the F.D.C.; such co-operation, however, will only be possible if certain conditions of compensation are improved and made adequate to meet requirements.

REPLY TO THE BIGGEST OBJECTION TO MY REPORT

This objection is current among the officials of the F.D.C. and has spread to a large part of the population of Masham.

The objection may be summed up thus: the people want to sell to the Park.

That is true from the standpoint of the taxpayers, because their taxes are too high; on that question, I refer you to the table of municipal and school taxes. The agents try on the other hand to prove that the people are doomed to a backward stage of development that will place them in an extricable position of local under-development and future debts and that will reduce them to extreme poverty.

The answer to those very serious objections is found in Article XXVII: Pre-existing conditions, present conditions with present compensation of the F.D.C., but also those points which make it possible to predict a brilliant future. However, it will always be possible to find exceptions or particular cases to confirm those general observations.

Answer to the questions asked on May 11, 1956 by the members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee following the brief presented by the Metropolitan Council for Western Quebec and additional information regarding the present situation in Ste. Cecile de Masham and in Gatineau Park. Suggestions.

SUMMARY

- I—Explanation of the circumstances surrounding the brief already presented. Meaning given by the author or authors concerned to the questions asked at the time the brief was actually being prepared. Explanation of the texts themselves. (pages 1 and 2)
- II—First question asked: distinction to be made. (pages 2, 3 and 4)
 - A—Grant received from the F.D.C. represents the taxes based on the present assessment.
 - B—F.D.C. grant does not represent the taxes lost:
 - 1—Demolished buildings are not assessed by the municipality. Documentary table.