

Cape Breton Highlands National Park

of liquor. If the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate was thinking of liquor, then that comes within the jurisdiction of the territorial council which is, of course, fully responsible in so far as legislation concerning the consumption of liquor is concerned.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think perhaps the hon. gentleman has answered my question, but I believe on the point of law he is not quite right. The most recent amendment to the Indian Act, with which I have a certain familiarity, does leave certain responsibilities with the federal government as well. However, he has answered my question and I have no desire to pursue the matter further.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle) thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-35, to amend the Yukon Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

NATIONAL PARKS**CAPE BRETON—PROVISION FOR WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN LANDS**

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the withdrawal of certain lands from Cape Breton Highlands national park.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Sevigny in the chair.

Mr. Chevrier: Will the minister make a statement?

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Chairman, the amendment to the National Parks Act affecting the boundaries of Cape Breton Highlands national park is one that has a considerable story to it, which I shall run through in my statement on the resolution and then leave the debate on the details until second reading.

The purpose of changing the boundaries of Cape Breton national park is to provide for the Wreck Cove power development project in Nova Scotia. The National Parks Act does not allow for the exploitation of resources within a park boundary. Specifically, it does not allow for the use of water in a park for hydro purposes. However, if it can be shown that it is in the national interest to exploit a resource in a park, then the affected area must be taken out of the park. This is the purpose of the amending bill.

A request came from the Nova Scotia power commission to the federal government in

[Mr. Nielsen.]

November of 1956, and a joint federal-provincial body was set up to look into the question of power in this area, to make a survey and come to some mutual understanding. This report has been submitted to both governments and the recommendation is that ten square miles approximately be removed from the park to provide the necessary additional horsepower for the development of this plant. This area is in the south-central portion of the park.

It is a matter of interest that the last occasion when the parks department had to withdraw land from a national park was some three years ago, and it concerned the same park. At that time they took out thirteen square miles. It is a matter of regret, therefore, I am sure to all Canadians that it is found necessary in the national interest to remove these lands from our national park for hydro development. It is true that the lands in this particular area of the park are not as valuable, from a scenic point of view, as lands in other parts of the park. However, it is necessary, if we are to effectively provide for hydro development in Nova Scotia, to provide all the hydro we can for peaking purposes, and to increase the capacity of the Wreck Cove plant in proportion to the moneys spent.

On these grounds, therefore, that it is in the national interest, although with much regret, we introduce this amendment to take out these ten square miles. The federal government did, with the full co-operation of the provincial government of Nova Scotia, make an attempt to get an equal or greater area in some other portion of the Cape Breton highlands. We did look at an area to the north-west of the park but the scenery there was of a similar type and the situation was complicated by the fact there were a number of fishing villages there which would produce innumerable complexities in the administration of the national park. So, reluctantly, we had to turn down that particular proposal. What we did, however, was to make an agreement with the Nova Scotia government that they would give us land near the Champlain habitation, which has long been wanted by the national historic sites division of my department. In recompense for these ten square miles we have received from Nova Scotia a very valuable bit of property.

I should add that the provincial government showed complete sympathy with our dilemma in this particular case. I can assure the house that if anything worth while does come up in the future by means of which we could recoup our loss of territory in Cape Breton, I am sure we would have the full co-operation of the Nova Scotia government. It is not