

Supply—Northern Affairs

Mr. Nickle: Mr. Chairman, there was some discussion earlier this afternoon about the barring of the public from public land, and in connection with that I would like to make a brief reference to another case in perhaps a slightly different category which aroused a great deal of ire and resentment on the part of visitors to Banff last fall, and also considerable resentment on the part of the local people. I refer to the erection of a fence around Chateau Lake Louise which, I am told, rather effectively barred public access to one of the showplaces of western Canada, Lake Louise itself. I would like to ask the minister whether his department plans to take any action to prevent a repetition this year of what occurred during last summer and fall.

Mr. Lesage: You mean at Lake Louise?

Mr. Nickle: Yes.

Mr. Lesage: That whole matter was discussed when I brought in the amendment to the parks act during this session and I have nothing to add to what I said at that time.

Mr. Montgomery: I would like to ask the minister another question in connection with the matter I raised a few moments ago. Could the minister give us a breakdown of the amount of revenue which was obtained from each park. Perhaps if he cannot do that at this time he would be kind enough to supply the information later.

Mr. Lesage: I can give the figures for the last full year.

Mr. Montgomery: That is what I am referring to for the others are only estimates.

Mr. Lesage: The figures are as follows: Banff, \$350,307.43; Cape Breton Highlands, \$9,149.00; Elk Island, \$52,205.00; Fundy, \$13,584.00; Georgian Bay, \$396.00; Glacier, \$3,085.00; Jasper, \$127,281.46; Kootenay, \$92,691.00; Mount Revelstoke, \$485.00; Point Pelee, \$20,487.00; Prince Albert, \$79,304.00; Prince Edward Island, \$9,472.00; Riding Mountain, \$128,050.00; St. Lawrence Islands, \$200.00; Waterton Lakes, \$48,590.00; Yoho, \$47,351.00.

Mr. Campbell: Mr. Chairman, I was very glad to hear the minister say a few days ago that it was his intention this summer to visit Fort Battleford, Saskatchewan. I am sure he is going to find a great many things of interest to him there and I would add that if I knew when he was coming I would like to be there to welcome him. It is only about three or four years since his department took over the operation of this fort. There is a great deal to be done. I was wondering what the plans of the department are for

this summer. Is the minister's department planning for new buildings or for any improvements to the grounds or roads?

Mr. Lesage: Mr. Chairman, we are on item 304. Any questions about new buildings would come under item 305. It would make it much easier for me if such questions were asked under that item. I have quite complete information on each vote, but if I have to go from one to the other, I find myself in difficulties. I should appreciate it greatly if the hon. member would ask his question under item 305.

Mr. Johnston (Bow River): There is one matter about which I want to ask the minister. I am quite sure it does not come under this estimate, however. Probably I should have raised it under the estimates of the Department of Public Works because it has something to do directly with the trans-Canada highway. However, it is a matter which certainly affects our tourist traffic. In the figures which the minister gave a moment or two ago he indicated that Banff national park receives more visitors than does probably any other national park in Canada. One of the things I want to bring to the minister's attention is this. Last year during the tourist season the road going from the Banff gate—that is the east gate—to Banff itself was a disgrace. Then to top it all off, right in the middle of the tourist season, when the tourist traffic was the heaviest, they put about two inches of oil over the top of that road. You should have seen the condition that tourists' cars were in after they had passed over that five or six miles between the east gate and the town of Banff. I would not ask you, Mr. Chairman, to listen to some of the remarks that some of the tourists made when they got to the end of that road.

What I should like to draw to the minister's attention is this. Something should be done before the tourist season starts—I suppose the minister would have to go back to the Minister of Public Works who is the minister responsible for the building of the trans-Canada highway—to see to it that that road is not left in the condition in which it was left last year. In fact, the condition became so bad that Mr. Strong, the superintendent of Banff park, I understand had to go himself to the contractors about that road and appeal to them to do something about it. I understand that was not part of Mr. Strong's duties either, but that he did so in view of the fact that so many complaints were coming to him and so widespread was the dissatisfaction that was felt because of the deplorable condition of that highway. There were holes in it of such a size that a car would almost drop out of sight; and