

brought about responsible government in the colonies. England was trying to administer Canada from Downing street, and as conditions exist Downing street was distant from some parts of the empire just about as far as Banff and some of these parks are distant from Ottawa. The home government sent out regulations and said to the colonial governors, "Enforce them." Here we send out regulations to Banff and other places and tell our officials to enforce them. When the people complained it led in this country to something close to civil war.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My hon. friend is wrong; the citizens' committee is always informed of the regulations.

Mr. BENNETT: That is what the minister intends to do, but unfortunately it does not always happen. Look at the letter which was written to the minister by the citizens' committee and which is published in the Crag and Canyon.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I have not received it yet.

Mr. BENNETT: I suppose the minister has so many things to do, with the appointment of returning officers and so on, that he finds it difficult to deal with matters such as this, but the letter was published in the Crag and Canyon. I have it on my desk and I will hand it to the minister.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): There are a great many things in the Crag and Canyon which I do not get.

Mr. BENNETT: This letter was sent to the minister and it has been printed also in the Crag and Canyon so that the public might understand the steps taken by the citizens' committee in their endeavour to establish municipal institutions. I regret taking up so much of the time of the committee, because I am really powerless in the matter, but I cannot help thinking that it is my duty to direct attention to the matter, and I believe a remedy can be found. If I had the power I would do it, and I have suggested a remedy to the minister. You cannot govern people from Ottawa with respect to local, domestic and municipal matters. There must be a measure of freedom, that authority, coordinated with the federal authority, would bring about peace and happiness as compared with the conditions under which these people now live. Once more I ask the Solicitor General how he would like to live under regulations imposed by irresponsible public authority.

Mr. CANNON: So long as there was no change in the minister I would be satisfied.

Mr. BENNETT: I think that answer aptly explains the whole situation. So long as the citizens bask in the favour of the minister all is well.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Banff has grown very rapidly, as my hon. friend knows, and in reply to his reference to the present administration I may say that I did not hear very much complaint about the administration by the former government. I have had no complaints nor have I heard the citizens complaining very much about the administration of the present government. I do not think the question of who is administering the parks has very much to do with it; it is a matter of principle as to how you are to carry on these recreational grounds known as national parks. If you are going to carry them on under provincial control the best thing for the federal government to do would be to step out of the picture altogether and let the provinces carry on the parks. Then we would have no difficulty, but no one wants to do that. I do not know of any citizen of this country who is interested in the preservation of these parks who wants them to be controlled by the provinces.

Mr. BENNETT: The people of Alberta would like it; Mr. Brownlee and Mr. Anderson both have requested it.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): No; Mr. Brownlee did not ask to have control of the parks; his request was that he be given control of the minerals within the parks.

Mr. BENNETT: And to bring them under provincial laws.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): He wanted control of the mineral development within the parks. We have said that these areas, so far as may be humanly possible, shall be preserved against commercial exploitation. My hon. friend has not yet had the administration of the parks.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, I administered them for three months.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): You did not have very much trouble during those three months.

Mr. BENNETT: I had a great deal of trouble.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): You did not have many very serious matters to disturb you. My hon. friend is making a mountain out of a molehill. These communities will be