

there is perhaps a danger of this being undertaken by private concerns. Although a good many of our water-powers have already been alienated it would seem that we ought at this time to adopt a policy by which to conserve those that still remain under the control of the Dominion government; and I should hope that some day we will be able to regain for the people the water-powers that have been alienated. I would urge upon the department that there should be no further alienation of any water-power whatever but rather that in view of the great need there will be for water-powers for electrical development in the days to come, we grant the use of any of these powers only under the strictest supervision. Personally I think we ought to look forward in the very near future to a policy by which the Dominion government, in conjunction with the various provincial governments, will develop these water-powers.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): That is our policy at the moment. We do not let these water-powers pass into private hands any longer.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: But nothing has been done in the way of development?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): No.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I think the minister is technically correct but let me tell him frankly that as soon as he begins leasing for long terms vested interests arise and the government is up against the great difficulty of having practically to perpetuate private control of these resources. I think what the hon. member for Centre Winnipeg (Mr. Woodsworth) desires, and indeed I desire it myself, is to see the government maintain not only state control but the right to direct operation and to control the rates to be charged those who consume the power developed from these resources.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): True, the lease is for a term of years, but the control of the rates is absolutely in our hands. In view of what the hon. members for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Stevens) and West Calgary (Mr. Shaw) have said, I shall be perfectly willing, so far as this particular development is concerned, to submit it to parliament for consideration. We have a parks bill prepared in the department. One of the objections I have to this is that legislative action of a hard and fast character under which to operate our parks is not desirable.

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

Mr. STEVENS: My appeal is that the statutory control shall be applied only to applications for what I might call the dissipation of the resource itself, not the ordinary administrative concession.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): As to the statement by the hon. member for West Calgary that we have entirely too large an area in our parks, I doubt if this is true of the Banff park. I think he has in mind the forest reserve surrounding it. The park, which includes the Spray lake area, I do not think is unduly large. In nearly all our parks there is some scenic value which it would be dangerous to relinquish our control of. I agree with my hon. friend and confess that when I went up on that mountain and viewed the area I thought a twelve-mile lake would improve the scenery. This is a very vexed question, the public are taking a very great interest in it, and the Minister of the Interior can easily get into very serious difficulties in regard to it. Therefore I am relieved to pass the responsibility on to parliament.

Mr. STEVENS: Nothing will be done until the question is debated in regard to a parks bill?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I will be prepared to submit it to parliament.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River) In regard to this particular development?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): As to the Spray lake question I agree almost entirely with the position taken by the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Stevens), and the minister will have my very hearty support should he introduce any park policy of a definite character undertaking to do what has been suggested to-night. I had the pleasure of accompanying the hon. member for West Calgary (Mr. Shaw) into the Spray lake district last year. We found there exactly what he describes—a wretched area. The lake itself is most disreputable looking. There was really nothing picturesque throughout the whole area, and I do not think that any of the scenic beauty of Banff would be destroyed by developing a reservoir there. I am inclined to think that the scheme might be practical if carried out, but I am not yet convinced of this. We took the trouble of going over the site, examining the location of the proposed dam and tunnel, the estimated flow, and so on. But apart from that aspect altogether, I am inclined to agree with the minister that