

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Fort Howe comprises the old Fort Howe military grounds in the city of St. John, N.B. Arrangements have been completed for turning this area over to the city to be administered as a civic park. Vidals Point park is a small recreational area in the province of Saskatchewan, located, I think, just south of Swift Current. This park, as well as Menissawok park, was set aside for the purpose of providing additional grounds for—

Mr. COOTE: Local parks?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Yes. They are not now required and are being struck off the list of national parks.

Section agreed to.

On section 4—Parks to be public possessions.

Mr. COOTE: Will the minister explain the meaning of the words at the end of the section which are underlined, reading as follows:

so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): With the exception of improvements in the building of roads, the reservation of ground for the purpose of hotels and the construction of wardens' cabins and that sort of thing necessary to carry on the work of the park officials, the idea is to leave the park and the territory included in the park just as nature has left it so that it may be passed on to future generations. Perhaps the explanation is somewhat superfluous, but that is the meaning intended.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, this bill has been permitted to go into committee so that it can be discussed and to enable the minister to have the opportunity of replying to questions. I protest most vigorously against this bill. Nothing is better calculated to increase the life of autocratic powers than such a bill. This house knows perfectly well that what has been done in the case of the resources bills is something which every student of constitutional matters must be opposed to, but this government has stated that they were to be passed willy-nilly and the provinces, not being able to obtain any other bargain, were forced to take what was offered. As far as the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan are concerned, those governments would not have accepted, but it was either that or the imperilling of the receipt of our resources. In the province of Alberta there is a park at Banff, one at Jasper and one at Waterton

lakes, and in each case there is a part of Canada which is not subject to the provincial jurisdiction. That could not happen in the eastern provinces, as the hon. gentleman knows. Section 7 reads:

The governor in council may, from time to time as he deems expedient, make regulations for,—

That section confers upon the governor in council a legislative jurisdiction similar to that conferred on the provinces by section 92 of the British North America Act. In other words, these parks are to be governed from Ottawa which is 3,000 miles away. A gentleman will sit here and will have an order in council passed by the governor general which will deal with every detail of life of thousands of people. To think of such things being possible in this day! Sir Oliver Mowat thought that he had ended such things, as far as Ontario was concerned. A glance at the succeeding pages of the bill will show the intolerable character of the autocratic power which will be exercised. Do hon. members from the other provinces realize what that means? People went to these areas before the present conditions obtained, but they are not to be permitted to do any act in the ordinary incidence of life without receiving permission. How would the minister like to live under such conditions? How would the members of this house like to be under such restrictions? It is conducive to favouritism and political despotism to a point just short of iniquitous. The population in these parks is enthralled by the terrorism of an official at Ottawa, and they have no recourse whatever. They are dragged up before a stipendiary magistrate, named and nominated by the government, who looks upon himself as an official. There are police officials surrounding him and watching him to see what happens. Then follow the administrative officers, such as the superintendents, who are continually spying out every corner of the park. Consider what one poor resident did at Banff. He painted on a little piece of board a pointing finger with the name of his hotel. Permission had been obtained from the owner of the property upon which he had placed the sign, but the officials pounced upon him and he was forced to take it down. Another man advertised a particular brand of gasoline from his roof, but down it had to come. Then in another place you will find those who have a pull with the government being permitted to do these things. These things are going on and they bring discredit upon this country.

The government is undertaking to carry on this work by regulations made at Ottawa by the governor in council. This is against all