

and France to attract tourist traffic was very significant and, if we give it due weight, very important.

Some of our provinces are not financially in a position to carry out a policy of road expansion as rapidly as they would like to do. I think it would be the part of wisdom for the federal government to assist these provinces—not by handing out money here and there, but by sitting down with the provincial authorities and getting their co-operation in the development of this great tourist industry, and saying to them: We will assist you financially in the building of tourist roads under agreement as to where they will be located, and how they will be constructed. A policy intelligently planned and carried out in that way would within the next five or six years add hundreds of miles—yes, probably several thousand miles—to our total mileage of good hard-surface roads. These roads, as the report recommends, should commence at strategic points along the international boundary, and link up with roads into the northern parts of Quebec, Ontario and, indeed, all the provinces.

If I am not trespassing on the time of the house—

Some Hon. SENATORS: No, no.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR:—I will give an illustration which I think pretty clearly indicates the possibilities of such a policy. Up until 1938 there was no highway connecting the southern part of Manitoba with the mining area in the north. One of the things for which I take some credit is that in 1936, when I was a member of the government, I was instrumental in bringing about the development of tourist-road and mining-road programmes. These programmes were continued until the outbreak of the war. As the result of the co-operation of the federal government with the government of Manitoba, a good gravel highway was built from Swan river to Le Pas, a distance of a hundred and fifty miles. This road was opened for traffic in June or July of 1938. Towards the end of August of that year I was in Le Pas. I was not there on political business, but I freely confess that as a member of the House of Commons I was also looking after my political fences. As I walked down the main street of that little town I counted twenty American cars parked by the curb, some from points as far distant as California and Alabama.

Hon. Mr. HAYDEN: Their owners were not your constituents?

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: No. But believe me—and I confess this now that I have been

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summoned from the other place—the building of that road did not do me any harm politically.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Oh! Oh!

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: We can also develop our winter tourist traffic. A great many of our American friends love skiing and other winter sports, and if we go about the matter intelligently and provide proper accommodation, we can offer inducements that will keep them satisfied and make them eager to return for these winter sports. In this connection I wish to pay a tribute to the province of Quebec. From what knowledge I have, I think the authorities in that province are going about the business of giving comfortable accommodation and good meals to tourists in a better way than any of the other provinces.

There is another suggestion in the report—that by every means we should endeavour to get into the minds of our people the possibilities of this tourist business. We should encourage them to play their part in its successful development by being courteous, providing good accommodation and good food at reasonable charges, and making our visitors feel they are welcome guests. That will happen if the suggestion is intelligently conveyed to our people. I am certain, if we go about it in the right way, that it is quite possible within seven or eight years to make the tourist business of Canada worth \$500,000,000 a year. For that reason I support the recommendations of this committee.

From my observations, and I have had some years experience, there is today in the minds of a great many Canadians a feeling of doubt and uncertainty about the future; in many cases it is a sense of frustration. Honourable senators, that is not a healthy state of mind for the people of a democratic country. I am convinced that if we could get some definite and sensible plan for the development of our resources, and go out and tell our people about it and invite their co-operation, we would bring a new faith and hope to Canadians everywhere in this country. The psychological effect of such a project would be felt from one end of the country to the other.

Canadians are a fine people; they demonstrated that during the war. They still possess the pioneer spirit that opened up half a continent in the face of great hardship. By a sensible policy of immigration and sensible policies in the development of our natural wealth we can create immense opportunity for the employment of labour, and thereby increase our national income and lighten the heavy burden of taxation that now rests upon our people.