

*Bancroft, Ontario*

edition which covers the tourist resorts in the Kawartha lakes district, and in the county of Hastings. The hon. member for Peterborough West (Mr. Fraser) each year sends members of the house a copy of this vacation guide.

I mention these two publications simply to show the extent of the publications and the money spent in advertising the tourist attractions of this section of eastern Ontario. The steady increase in the number of American tourists coming to eastern Ontario, and particularly to Hastings county, and the large number who have purchased land and erected cottages on the sites clearly shows that this method of advertising by means of booklets, maps and advertisements in American papers and magazines has paid good dividends.

It appears to me most unfortunate that at a time when every community which has tourist attractions is doing everything possible to attract American tourists and American dollars to Canada, a large weekly Canadian paper with a wide circulation should go out of its way to publish an article such as "Bancroft was Tough". I am sure anyone reading the article and for the first time learning about this county would never think of going there for a vacation.

Shortly after the article was published I wrote to the *Montreal Standard* pointing out the many errors, and the nature of the slanderous references. After a long delay the editor published only certain parts of my letter. To date the editor of the *Standard* has not seen fit to publish an apology to the thousands of Canadians who reside in the Bancroft district for this most insulting and slanderous attack made against the whole community.

I think all will agree that the press of Canada has every freedom; yet I submit that with that freedom goes the responsibility that no paper should use the power of its pages to slander or to hold an entire community up to ridicule and contempt, as has been done by the *Montreal Standard*. I submit the editor of this newspaper was guilty of the cheapest kind of ethics—if it can even be called ethical—when he printed an untrue, slimy and slanderous story for the sole purpose of attracting attention to the pages of this newspaper, and thereby increasing its circulation.

As for Mr. Porter, who wrote the article, I can only say that I hope Mr. Porter has the guts—and I doubt if he possesses guts of any nature—to return to Bancroft. If he does he will then receive the type of treatment he so justly deserves.

Bancroft is a village of about 1,100 persons. It is located in the northern part of Hastings

[Mr. White (Hastings-Peterborough).]

county. To show the "very primitive conditions and shanty standards", to use the exact words of Mr. Porter in this article, I would mention that about a year and a half ago a new school was opened in Bancroft. This school cost about half a million dollars, and is the finest of its kind in the province. The attendance at the school is about 400, and already plans are under way to enlarge it. Modern busses bring the children to the school daily from the surrounding districts. This school is equipped with every device and every kind of equipment used in modern education. Bancroft possesses a hospital which is not equalled by those in the cities of Belleville and Trenton, which are also located in the county of Hastings. The village has a very fine community hall, a new covered rink, a fine swimming pool—and I am wondering how many other Ontario communities with 1,100 of a population have a modern swimming pool. A modern paved highway connects Bancroft to the south with Belleville, to the west with Peterborough, and to the east with Pembroke and Ottawa. Modern busses provide daily services to these cities and towns.

The village has the hydroelectric service, a modern theatre, paved streets, a very fine tourist hotel—and yet this is the "primitive and shanty standards" town described by Mr. Porter in his article "Bancroft was Tough". When he was in the village of Bancroft he was shown the school, the hospital, the rink, the swimming pool, the community hall and the other attractive features of the community. However, he chose to ignore all these things in selecting material for his article.

Bancroft is located in the centre of the finest tourist district of Ontario. The altitude is very high, and in that district hayfever is unknown. There are hundreds of lakes, rivers, trout streams, rapids, and other ideal spots, all within the northern part of Hastings county, rugged hills with wide sweeping valleys, with lakes and rivers providing scenery that cannot be equalled anywhere in the world. There is a lake, L'Amable lake, which rivals lake Louise. Nowhere else in Canada will you find such varied lakes with so many game fish. But Mr. Porter did not choose to write about any of these attractions, nor did he mention the thousands of ideal camping and cottage sites which are so attractive to United States tourists, all with fine sandy beaches with pines in the background, all ideal places to spend a holiday. Mr. Porter did not mention one single constructive thing about Bancroft as a community. He was shown some of the finest lodges in eastern Ontario but he made no mention of them.