

While the project of a Federal District of the proportions indicated must wait not only for well matured and well founded plans, but also for the widespread support of a crystallized popular opinion throughout Canada, the development of Ottawa as a national capital is proceeding apace, and must not be held up, pending a settlement of the larger question.

Different reports have, from time to time, been made to the Government on the development of this district as a national capital. The report of the Holt Commission set up in 1913 is the most exhaustive of them all. The Greber report made in 1939 agrees in general with the main findings of the Holt Commission. These reports have been before the public for many years and have been illustrated and discussed in the press and have on the whole met with very general approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In order that such development may be co-ordinated in general with the plans already laid down, we suggest that the powers of the Federal District Commission be increased and its personnel be enlarged to include, not only representation from the Ottawa area, but of the people of Canada as a whole. The name Federal District Commission might even be changed to include the idea of a National Capital.

As we believe from its past record and experience, and the independent nature of this commission, it is the logical arm of government to co-ordinate, in this district, and developments which will take place in the future. Therefore, we recommend that any plans for constructional or development work to be carried out on any government owned or leased land in the district of the National Capital by any department of government should be submitted to the Federal District Commission and not be executed without their approval.

In the event of fundamental differences of opinion between the Federal District Commission and any department of government, regarding the placement or architecture of any proposed construction, or on any question referred to them, the department concerned and the Federal District Commission will make a report to the Governor General in Council setting forth the issue and the decision in such cases, of course, will rest with the Governor General in Council.

In the case of development on land not owned or leased by any federal government body but adjacent to any parkway or driveway maintained by the Federal District Commission, the Commission should be empowered to appoint sub-committees to deal with the City of Ottawa or any other affected municipality in the general area of the National Capital. It would be hoped that any of these municipalities would also appoint similar sub-committees to meet with the Federal District Commission for the purpose of discussing any problems involved. If possible, a joint report should be made but, if that was impossible, respectively separate reports to the municipality in question, and the Governor General in Council, should be submitted outlining such action as might seem desirable in the circumstances.

Co-operation should be established in the location and construction of all public buildings within the Ottawa area, not owned by the Federal Government.

The above suggestions are made as a simple means, with presently existing machinery, of obtaining that co-ordination and adherence to the general plans already laid down for the development of this district which is so necessary and desirable if the National Capital is to grow in an orderly way.

2. With further reference to railway facilities in Ottawa, it is recommended that the Government authorize the Federal District Commission to