

act through an official who to some extent is protected because he has been appointed by the civil service commission and therefore cannot be removed from his office. He is a little czar in his realm. I am not suggesting that he is making too many mistakes, but I am saying that through him the requirements set out in the Gibb report should be resurrected and enforced.

I want the government to understand that with the advantages offered by the harbour of Three Rivers, with the possibilities of development found there, it should be helped in the way I have mentioned, namely by the aid of a local advisory board who would follow up developments and give advice on whatever might be done for the advancement of the interests of that port.

Mr. MacNICOL: The hon. member is right.

Mr. GARIÉPY: May I lodge another small grievance? The family allowance provisions are effective in my part of the country, as in others. Moneys have been distributed, but in this matter of distribution I believe there is cause for some complaint. Possibly for reasons of economy, or because of the newness of the system, the department has only one general office for the whole province of Quebec, so far as the administration of family allowances in that province is concerned. This is neither practical nor effective. Three Rivers is situated centrally in the province. Families drawing these allowances are generally poor, and many are not educated. The idea is new, and frequently investigations are necessary. The people need help, and they write to Quebec, Montreal or Ottawa. Many cases have not received attention for weeks or even months, and I say this is an improper practice. It would not be more costly to have at Three Rivers a local office from which the ten or twelve surrounding counties could be served. The same applies to the administration of the income tax. At present there is only one general office in Montreal, and one can well imagine the volume of correspondence flowing to that office.

It is true that some officials travel, but their visits are hasty and they do not long remain at one point. If, as we must, we are to continue collecting income tax, then it should become a part of the system to have local offices in different districts. I am not suggesting that there should be an office in every county or in every town. But for those in Three Rivers to have to seek information from Montreal or Quebec is placing the people of that city at a disadvantage, and is a condition which is not conducive to good results.

Anyone who travels through Quebec, as does the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Mac-Nicol), will have noticed that the section between Montreal and Quebec is somewhat segregated. Running north from Three Rivers we find places like Shawinigan, Grand-Mere, and La Tuque, where one reaches the main line of the old Grand Trunk Pacific railway. Then, coming south one reaches points such as Nicolet, Victoriaville, Drummondville and Sherbrooke. From there one approaches the boundary line and the connections with areas south of the border.

At Three Rivers we are in the centre of the power area. Shawinigan Falls was the first power development project in Canada. Even to-day a million more horse-power could be developed if the factories were in existence to warrant it. This great power development is only about twenty miles north of my constituency. In the area are half a dozen paper companies. It is the world's centre for paper manufacturing, and we have the biggest mill in my own city, shipping its products day in and day out. It ships by water in the summer, and also by rail, one route going around by Montreal and the other by Quebec. The St. Lawrence river is very wide at that point and the ferries have been inadequate. There does not seem to be any practical way to get crossings that will give satisfaction. In that district there is eighty miles or so of first-class farming country, but it is not doing as well as it might if more attention were paid to it. I am not blaming anybody for that, but you know how it is. In the old days I lived where my hon. friend the member for Peace River (Mr. Low) resides, and I remember that Edmonton and Calgary were taking everything and the poor little town of Vegreville and the poor little town of Red Deer did not get much. Up to the present Montreal has been asking for a lot, and when it has not been Montreal it has been Quebec.

This country must go ahead and we must get busy to produce the best results. We have a large debt to pay. We want our people to get returns for their work and for their abilities. The centre of our province can and should be opened up, and it would then provide ample revenues. We have a gold mine lying dormant there. What is required?

A request was made not long ago, but dropped, to build a bridge between Quebec and Lévis. There has been agitation also for a bridge between Montreal and Longueuil on the south shore of the St. Lawrence. For two hundred miles there is no bridge across the St. Lawrence between Montreal and Quebec, and in the summer you will see on both sides of the river hundreds of automobiles waiting