

Supply—Northern Affairs

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I hope the minister will take advantage of the opportunity now presented to say something in answer to the hon. member who has just spoken and also to what I had said on a much wider front on matters which concern the whole of Essex county.

Mr. Dinsdale: I must say that I appreciate the kind invitations that have been extended by many hon. members to visit their part of Canada. I am fully aware of the historic significance of the area referred to by the hon. member for Essex South and also the hon. member for Essex East. At the earliest opportunity I do intend to visit the various historic places that have been mentioned by them.

I was interested in the comment made by the hon. member for Essex East with reference to the Baby museum. I understand that that is under private auspices—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is right.

Mr. Dinsdale:—and has been preserved by Hiram Walker. I do not know just how it has been preserved. That is the sort of development that is very encouraging, especially when we have private groups interested in preserving our historic heritage.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): It has been preserved by the Hiram Walker Company located in Windsor. Through the generosity of that company the museum is now one of our treasured institutions.

Perhaps the minister would also give me an encouraging word with regard to my proposal and suggestion respecting Peche island?

Mr. Dinsdale: That is a question that will have to be considered by the historic sites and monuments board.

While I am on my feet I might say to the hon. member for Lincoln that my officials have already had extended conversations with reference to the Welland canal project.

Item agreed to.

288. Grant in aid of the development of the international peace garden in Manitoba, \$15,000.

Mr. Pickersgill: One word, sir. I would imagine this would be an item on which the minister would think the taxpayers' money could be saved. Has the minister a word to say about it?

Mr. Dinsdale: I am hoping that some other hon. member will take up the torch on my behalf in connection with this item. In view of the fact that the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate has been so active on so many other matters pertaining to Manitoba I trust he will give this his wholehearted support.

[Mr. Thrasher.]

Mr. Pickersgill: It being so close to the place where I went to live when I first went to Manitoba, sir, I could not help but support it.

Item agreed to.

290. Canadian wildlife service—wildlife resources conservation and development, including administration of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, \$823,390.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I have been waiting for this item for a long time. I have no desire to hold matters up but I did receive in my mail this morning a letter from one of my constituents which puts the case much better than I could possibly put it myself. To save the time of the committee and the minister I will read some extracts from it, but I will not try to read the whole letter. I do not think it will be controversial in the partisan sense, though it may be controversial in an international sense. This letter is in connection with the federal law concerning the killing of sea ducks, in which Newfoundland is no exception. The letter reads in part as follows:

First let me have a few words with regard to the open season period, namely November 14 to February 28.

Well, I will not go through that because it says some rather disparaging things about the weather in Newfoundland during the period and suggests it is not a very suitable time to shoot anything. Then, the writer goes on to say:

Next, I ask why the season closes on February 28. If it is because sea ducks or any other sea bird commences mating at this time, I am much to the contrary. Frankly I would not be the one to disturb any bird in any stage of its mating or breeding period. What I am trying to point out is that all species of sea birds are in abundance around our Newfoundland coasts yet the law forbids the taking of same. I might say that the murr or turr may not be any denser than several years ago due to the fact that it is a deadly prey to oil pollution. However, this enemy has very little or no effect to the various sea ducks inhabiting our shores, although it does take its toll.

Sea bird sightings this year have been greater than ever before; I myself being one of the most avid hunters of Bonavista have witnessed the sight of many sea ducks and estimate their numbers to be in the multi-million margin; radio broadcasts near Christmas of 1960 announced sea ducks denser than ever before in the cape Freels-Bonavista area yet conservation measures are still imposed. Why this is so is beyond my comprehension or anyone else's and I think it is about time steps were taken to have this law rescinded.

Now a word concerning the tickleace (killiwak) and bull bird as commonly known to us Newfoundlanders. Those birds are by law forbidden delicacies and like the sea duck are also in abundance. Why those birds are conserved is another law which leaves us all dumbfounded.

Surely the open season can be made to suit each province of Canada or do Newfoundlanders have to refrain from killing sea birds just because