

The Budget—Mr. Hammell

I would like to hear from you on receipt of this, and trusting that you may be able again to put forward the need of aggressive action by Ottawa.

Yours very truly,

J. R. DAVISON.

Now, the menu card enclosed with this letter deserves special commendation. On one side the heading reads: "This is what we eat," and the dinner menu is given. On the other side appear the words. "This is what the tourists eat."

This page is certainly worth quoting and here are the figures given:

It is estimated that the tourists visiting British Columbia last year consumed foodstuffs to the following amounts:

Cereals, 1,323 bags or 132,300 pounds; bacon and ham, 394,800 pounds; bread at one pound a loaf, 2,100,000 loaves—2,100,000 pounds; jam, 315,000 pounds; coffee, 78,750 pounds; tea, 78,750 pounds; sugar, 279,300 pounds; butter, 180,000 pounds; vegetables, 2,100,000 pounds; potatoes, 42,000 bags or 4,200,000 pounds; fish, 2,100,000 pounds; flour, 630,000 pounds; salt, 31,500 pounds; fat for cooking, 210,000 pounds. Meat: cattle, 3,500 head; hogs, 8,400; sheep, 25,200. Fruit—420,000 pounds; apples, 21,000 boxes; cream, 73,500 gallons; milk, 262,500 gallons; syrup, 4,200 gallons; eggs, 8,400,000.

In reference to the number of sheep consumed this remark is appended:

Hon. E. D. Barlow said there were 50,000 sheep in British Columbia. Tourists ate over half our flock. He will have to count them again.

And I could keep on quoting for hours along the same lines, showing the great economic value of the tourist traffic. Suffice it to say that we are not in any way depleting our reserves when we deliver our goods through the eyes of our tourist friends. When we feed them our farmers profit; when we transport them our railway and steamship companies benefit; in fact every time a tourist moves some part of our economic structure is called into function, and the collective mass of this travel provides a real impetus to trade generally.

Another very important factor that is too easily forgotten is that tourist travel has a secondary influence, often far-reaching in its benefits. It builds up good-will and understanding and it opens the eyes of the visitor to the possibilities of the country. Many a holiday has culminated in an investment or in permanent settlement. It is said that the wonderful industrial development of Shawinigan Falls is traceable to a summer holiday spent in lower Quebec by one of our great capitalists. And if the truth were known it would perhaps be amazing to realize the prominent part played in the development of our country by those who first came here seeking pleasure and rest and who could not fail to realize the immense possibilities of our vast

[Mr. Hammell.]

Dominion with its great wealth of natural resources.

That Canada has the required scenic beauties to attract and please the tourists is beyond discussion. There is not a single province that does not possess scenic marvels and points of beauty such as the tourist craves. Right at the door of this capital city lies the wonderful valley of the Gatineau capable of attracting and sustaining the interest of thousands and thousands of tourists. We have from east to west a chain of holiday paradises which are veritable fairylands for the tourists. The Bras d'Or lakes, the Garden of the Gulf, the Land of Evangeline, the magnificent Laurentides, the far-famed Murray bay, the Thousand Islands, the National parks, all are assets beyond value, ready to be exploited for the national benefit. I need no excuse to advertise the beauties of my own district of Muskoka; its myriads of lakes, streams and waterfalls, its countless attractive islands, its beautiful and ever-charming scenery, its healthful and invigorating climate, are yearly the pleasure grounds of increasing thousands. Here, if anywhere, the value of the tourist business is realized and every effort is courageously being made for its development. All in our district take a personal interest and have at heart the conservation of the scenic wonders of this fairlyland on the Georgian bay, and we feel, that the efforts we are making will result in benefits that will be nationally felt. The development has been marked in recent years and the number of visitors is continually increasing. Not only this, but scores and scores are added annually to the number who have already become permanently settled summer residents in the various localities.

The investment in property beautification and conservation has already reached a very large sum and costly additions are made every year. I again refer to my remarks of last year, at page 1858 of Hansard, to show what the tourist traffic means in this locality alone. I said last year:

Taking as a survey, that each of the 155 places referred to, with their accommodation for 10,000 guests, only filled their rooms five times each during the entire season, we have a total of 50,000 guests, which at an average expenditure of only \$100 each would mean a total expenditure of \$5,000,000. From a very conservative estimate of the value of the investment in that region we find that in cottages, resorts and launches, the total investment in the three sections of Muskoka, Lake of Bays, the Georgian bay, and Muskoka lakes, is well in excess of \$20,000,000. And the investment is rapidly increasing from year to year.

On the Muskoka lakes alone we find this remarkable summary of investment, and my authority is