

*Federal District Commission*

sion, and indicated that he was agreeable to an amendment which would provide for every province being represented. I had planned to offer such an amendment when the appropriate section was before us. I do not see why the membership would have to be increased from fifteen to nineteen, however, in the development of the national capital there should not be any province left out of representation on the commission, and when I say that I am not advocating that the membership be increased. I think the nine provinces could be represented in the suggested membership of fifteen.

Mr. BURTON: I wish to thank the minister for the clear statement he made this morning, and my only regret is that he did not see fit to say something of that kind when the resolution was before the house. There are a few things I should like to inquire about. The leader of the opposition referred to the fact that this was considered as a national war memorial, and I understood the minister to say in answering the hon. gentleman that that was not necessarily part of this scheme. The explanatory note reads in part:

The purpose of this bill is to amend the Federal District Commission Act, 1927, so as to enable the commission to discharge more readily the duties that will devolve upon it in connection with the development of the national capital area as a national war memorial.

If it is not the intention of the government to do that, why should that explanatory note be placed in the bill? I would suggest to the minister that that be deleted. I am quite in accord with the idea that there should be a national war memorial in the national capital, but let us go ahead with it on that basis and proceed with this other work on its own merits. As I mentioned on the second reading, those whose memories we wish to commemorate by a war memorial did not all come from Ottawa. I contend that the various provinces should be given assistance in the building of suitable monuments or memorials.

From time to time the leader or the acting leader of this group speaks on behalf of this party, but I wish to make it clear that I have the privilege of speaking on behalf of the people of Humboldt constituency. When I speak on matters of this kind I endeavour to be governed by what I believe are the considered wishes of the people of my constituency. In our party it is recognized that a member has that right. The people in the constituency which I have the honour to represent know that I am a firm believer in democratic government. They know that I

[Mr. Bracken.]

am prepared to obey the will of the majority when it is expressed in an orderly manner.

Last night this house approved the principle of this bill, and apparently that approval was given by a majority of the members. Being a true democrat I accept that decision and I shall be prepared to represent the people I am supposed to represent by continuing my efforts to work within that orbit and endeavour to make this bill a better bill. Therefore I shall be prepared to support any amendments, whether they come from this or any other section of the house, which in my opinion will remove the objectionable features of the bill.

While I am speaking of amendments, I may say for the benefit of the member for Fraser Valley that in discussing the principle of the bill yesterday I took occasion to note what some of the objections were, but I fully realized that it was not the time to move any amendments. I might further inform him that my experience in the past has been that if you really want something worth while done for the improvement of a bill, you should use your persuasive powers to the best of your ability to have the minister, or one of his colleagues appreciate the necessity for such amendments as you may suggest and move them accordingly. I can see that someone, whether myself or the member for Fraser Valley, had some influence on the minister, because he is prepared to go at least part of the way with us. For that I wish to thank the minister, and I may say that if either he or the member for Fraser Valley does not move some of the amendments I have in mind, I am prepared to bring them forward myself. I have some ready.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: My good friend the member for Humboldt rather flattered me—well, no; he did not flatter me; he described me correctly—when he said that I used my persuasive powers on the minister. But the member for Humboldt yesterday did everything he could think of to oppose the bill in principle and otherwise.

An hon. MEMBER: He knocked it down and threw it out.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: He may have tried to throw it out, but he did not succeed. There were too many of us from British Columbia for that. After I spoke last night, and I can be checked by reference to *Hansard*, the leader of the opposition stepped in, and he can read for himself what is reported in the record. I am proud that I brought that hon. gentleman into my little party in this connection, because I believe he will second