

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

address delivered by Mr. Strong, one of the officials of the parks branch, in which he said:

In Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland a number of future national parks have been delineated and, with the continuing co-operation and support of the provincial governments, the most intensive national park development since 1930 may be centered in the Atlantic provinces.

I rejoiced in that. I think it indicates a recognition of a great need in our part of Canada. Of all places where the need is compelling and urgent, my own province of Prince Edward Island is in the forefront. The existing park in our province occupies an area of about six square miles. Last summer, in the months of July and August almost exclusively, it admitted 1,127,608 visitors. That is a great number of people for a small park and indeed for a small province. Last year's figures were nearly 17 per cent over those of 1965. I think that these hundreds of thousands of people would testify to the fact that they were very well looked after in our fine park and in all the establishments provided in the province to cater to the ever-growing number of tourists.

• (11:10 p.m.)

It is not for me, and indeed it is not necessary for anyone, to speak about our attractive park site or our beautiful beaches, because boasting is not necessary. We do need more development and more facilities for the vastly increasing number of tourists which we can realistically predict for the future. A wise and prudent government looks toward the future.

Some time ago before a committee of the Senate the assistant deputy minister of the department of northern affairs and national resources, as it then was, indicated that the departmental officials charged with selecting park sites had chosen an area in the eastern end of Prince Edward Island, a most beautiful area and one I know well, although it is in the constituency of my colleague, the hon. member for Kings (Mr. McQuaid). A survey was also made of the western end of the province and there too there are attractive sites and beautiful areas which could potentially be developed. Since I represent neither the east nor the west of Prince Edward Island but the middle, I cannot be accused of partiality. I can offer a solution, and that solution is the development of a park both in the east and in the west. This would be a sensible progression and a realistic appraisal of our needs.

I know the minister has vast responsibilities in his administration of parks. He has many problems other than those in the province of

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

Prince Edward Island, but there is no province where tourism is such an important industry. It is our most rapidly expanding and most expandable one. We have few industries in our province—agriculture, fishing and tourism. I am sure that the minister, heading the department which is charged with the responsibility of retaining that which is beautiful and that which is historical for the use of all Canadians and not merely a few, could do great things in Prince Edward Island by meeting not only our current needs but by projecting into the future and realizing that many people will be coming to the Atlantic provinces, especially Prince Edward Island. Great things could be done in co-operation with the provincial government, and I know the role of the provincial government in the establishment of parks. Many great things could be done by providing a balance of recreational areas with the fine established park in my constituency and in these other areas. I would be very much surprised if the government of Prince Edward Island would not give full co-operation to this development.

We all like to hear ministers' speeches, and I commend Mr. Strong for the fine speech he made the other day. I hope he has forecast the kind of program that is imaginative and helpful and future geared, and I commend the suggested course to the minister.

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I am rather happy that the hon. member kept me until eleven o'clock tonight because I now have the opportunity of dealing with one aspect of my department which is interesting, constructive and productive for the people of Canada.

The attendance in our parks from April 1 to November 30 this year was 10,470,000 persons, which is 14 per cent up from the year before. We are experiencing growing difficulties. We are spending about \$27 million per year in our parks and we are only receiving from them in the way of revenue about \$2,500,000. It is not expected that parks should pay, but there is a limit to the funds available and they have to be spread as wisely as possible.

I agree with the hon. member on the wisdom and necessity of expanding our parks along the shoreline of the Atlantic provinces as rapidly as we possibly can. There is an advantage in merely obtaining property in these areas even though we do not develop them immediately. We have vast coastlines on the Atlantic and on the Pacific, much of which