

National Parks

cause it could not remain outside—I frankly confess we have no difficulty; no friction arises anywhere through the carrying out of the regulations which provide for the preservation of the wild life in the parks. On the other hand I want to say most emphatically that a national park could not be controlled by a provincial government; that is unthinkable and it could not possibly be done. The control of a national park must rest with the federal authorities, if they are to be responsible for the preservation and maintenance of these park areas. There always will be friction in the superintendence of these areas, but in the main we get along fairly well. There are persons in the park who raise complaints about restrictions which are imposed upon them but if they were to go into another municipality, even one of a most democratic nature, they would have to conform to the by-laws of that municipality. So far as these regulations are concerned—and I think my hon. friend will bear me out—there has been very little complaint from the citizens' committee or from anybody else. There have been complaints however from some particular individuals who want to use the park for their own personal benefit.

Mr. BENNETT: It is not quite as bad as that.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My hon. friend will agree with that.

Mr. BENNETT: Not quite.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My hon. friend will also agree that there must be some control over the class of buildings erected, and there must be control over the manner in which the town is governed. I am sure we worked quite amicably with the citizens' committees which are elected from time to time to represent the citizens.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not agree entirely with the minister when he says that there is difficulty with the bodies who are interested in the working of the regulations. I do say however that the complaint is not simply that there is friction, because anybody who is familiar with any municipality knows that there are always complaints against the administration of cities by aldermen and mayors. In one case however the citizens are in a position to go to the local city hall and adjust their grievances, while in the city of Banff they are told that the matter must be referred to Ottawa. It is referred to the superintendent of parks at Ottawa and his reply is that he must refer the complaint to the minister. The minister then takes his time in righting the grievance and the result is that there is a

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

considerable lapse of time before the grievance can be adjusted. I wish to make it clear to the minister that I sympathize with him in certain phases of the situation because I realize that it is difficult to administer a property situated so far away. My complaint however is that there is no recognition of the fact that local control is the only way in which successful municipal administration can be handled.

I wish to refer to section 8 of the bill, to which my hon. friend from Vancouver Centre (Mr. Stevens) referred. In subsection 2 (b) of section 8 I find the expression:

... without warrant or other legal process at any time enter and search

And so on. Under this any settler or any person has power under the provisions of this act or regulation to enter and search any building. Take the case of constables who in some cases delight in the exercise of their power; we know it to be a fact that in places of about 2,500 population where one political group has the patronage of the present government—and I wish my hon. friends opposite to understand that is merely an illustration and may or may not be so—everyone kowtows to the constable. Why is that so? Because he has the ear of the government. The result is that the constable, without a warrant, may make an arrest for a breach of section 8. The regulations are very powerful; a person may do something that is legal to-day, but in view of the fact that a regulation had been passed in Ottawa the day before he is now guilty of an offence. I intend to move now, as I did in the other case, that fifteen or twenty days' notice be given by publication before those regulations can become effective. I refer to any regulations in addition to the ones which now prevail, because we are ratifying and confirming the existing regulations and giving power to grant new ones. It is the theory of the bill that you can administer municipal institutions three thousand miles away, with a citizens' committee which cannot get its grievances redressed unless reference is made to Ottawa. That is the trouble, and when the minister says efforts are being made to remove friction I think he is quite right. I know he is desirous of removing friction, but that cannot be done by refusing to deal with the citizens' committee which has a limited power. When the community goes to the citizens' committee that committee, which unfortunately is without power, can only go to the park officials, who can only transmit the request to Ottawa, where it is dealt with and the decision transmitted back. It was that very complaint which