SEEDS

REGULATION OF TESTING, INSPECTING, SALE AND IMPORTATION

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture) moved the second reading of Bill No. 65, respecting the testing, inspection and sale of seeds.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): In addition to what was said a moment ago with respect to Bill No. 64, I suggest to the minister that it might be very desirable to have the Department of Justice carefully consider the question of our constitutional right to pass legislation dealing with the sale of these commodities. If the language of the privy council is to be relied upon, property and civil rights are affected. I mentioned that when the resolution was before the house.

Mr. GARDINER: I have already had that done. I have before me a very careful review of the act and also an opinion given in regard to it, in which it is claimed by the law officers that the bill as drafted is within the powers of this parliament.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the standing committee on agriculture and colonization.

NEW BRUNSWICK NATIONAL PARK

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Mines and Resources) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to set aside lands in the province of New Brunswick as a national park and to withdraw from the national park and revest in the province of Nova Scotia a portion of the lands set aside by the Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island National Parks Act, 1936.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Sanderson in the chair.

Mr. BENNETT: The minister made quite clear what it is proposed to do when the resolution was up, but might I ask whether or not it is proposed in the bill to define the area of the park in New Brunswick at this time, or merely define it in such general terms as to enable it to be hereafter settled?

Mr. CRERAR: It is impossible at present to define the area, because the area has not yet been selected.

Mr. BENNETT: I thought the minister might have selected my old county!

Mr. CRERAR: That, I can assure my right hon. friend, will have very careful consideration.

Mr. BENNETT: If it is not better than usual, there is not much chance for it.

Mr. CRERAR: I suggest that my right hon. friend may still live in hope. The difficulty in New Brunswick is that there are several sites under consideration. Under the parks act the provincial government has to give to the federal authority with clear title the area set aside for a park. In the older settled provinces it involves the acquisition of the site. I had hoped to be in a position to state to the committee when this measure was brought down that a particular site had been selected and what its boundaries would be, but unfortunately I am not in that position. We desire to get a start made on the park in New Brunswick, and we are asking in the bill for authority to define the area by order in council.

Mr. BENNETT: Orders in council are very handy when in office, are they not?

Mr. CRERAR: I believe my right hon. friend found them so.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, I did.

Mr. CRERAR: There have been some changes in Nova Scotia in the boundaries of the park as defined a year ago, the provincial government having discovered that it would be put to considerable expense to acquire some of the area included in the boundaries as defined at that time.

Mr. BENNETT: They would have to pass special legislation to expropriate.

Mr. CRERAR: There are certain problems of mineral rights which they had not considered before, which might lead to an uncertain financial liability. But we are adding an area to the park which, in the opinion of the parks officials who have examined it, will add to the usefulness and attractiveness of the park.

Mr. BARRY: Will the minister state upon whose recommendation the site in New Brunswick will be selected?

Mr. CRERAR: Sites are examined first by parks officials from the parks branch of the federal government. But my hon friend must remember that the area has to be given to the federal government by the provincial government free of charge with a clear title. That means that the provincial government has to be a consenting party to the area set aside. As I stated, the problem arises in New Brunswick of repossessing certain private properties that may exist in the area proposed to be set aside. and that matter is now