

and planted. Others have gone to great expense to decorate their premises and, all in all, British Columbians are conscious of their responsibility as hosts to more visitors than have ever holidayed in our province in any previous year.

I don't think I can better emphasize the extent to which British Columbia has gone all out this year than to remind you that the coming visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret to Canada is basically for the purpose of her visiting British Columbia, where she is going to be our guest for 14 days.

As I have stated, every community in the province is participating but, naturally, the larger centres, with varied and extensive facilities, are going to be the focal points for the greater activities. In this respect I want to refer to Vancouver Island. This island lies off the mainland to the west and is accessible only by water and by air. It is almost as large as the province of Prince Edward Island and has a population of about 150,000. Victoria, our provincial capital, is located on the southern extremity of Vancouver Island and the very fact that it is our capital city makes it a magnet that draws a large percentage of visitors that come to our province. Although in recent years air travel has become very common, nevertheless the basic life-line of Vancouver Island has been the ferry service between the island and the mainland. The C.P.R. has played a very important role in this ferry service. It has a very fine fleet of steamships, numbering 10 in all. These ships have a total gross tonnage of 44,000 tons, passenger facilities for 11,830, sleeping accommodation for 1,285, and a capacity for 498 automobiles.

Everything was going just fine and dandy in connection with the big Centennial holiday year until 350 employees of the C.P.R. Steamships—members of the Seafarers International Union—went out on strike on Friday night, May 16. As a result of this strike the 10 C.P.R. boats are lying idle in harbour at Vancouver, Victoria and Nanaimo. On May 27 the federal Government announced the appointment of Eric G. Taylor, of Toronto, as a mediator who was to make an effort to get the strike settled. However, Mr. Taylor returned to eastern Canada last week without having accomplished anything. Needless to say, the people of British Columbia, who were hopeful and patient, are feeling very discouraged over the outcome, and particularly so because of indications that this strike may drift into a long-drawn-out battle. This strike is approaching the end of the fourth week—the day after tomorrow, to be exact.

During this four-week period the loss suffered by the tourist service industry on Vancouver Island is reliably estimated to exceed

\$2 million. More than a week ago it was reported that over 30,000 reservations had been cancelled. Honourable senators, I cannot possibly convey to you what an injury our economy will suffer if this strike is prolonged indefinitely.

It will be felt worst on Vancouver Island: it will be just terrible for the province of British Columbia. But the loss does not end there. It is a national calamity. Direct losses will affect every level of tax collections; unemployment will be increased; building and capital expansion in the tourist industry will be cancelled. One province cannot suffer a setback like this without it affecting Canada as a whole.

There has been no announcement by the Government regarding mediator Taylor's return to eastern Canada, but a member of the Opposition in the other place yesterday asked the following question:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Labour. Have negotiations between the federal mediator, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Seafarers' International Union, involving a strike of steamship services on the west coast, broken down as reported in yesterday's press? If so what action, if any, is now contemplated by the Government to bring an end to this costly strike?

The Honourable Acting Minister of Labour answered this question in the following manner:

Mr. Speaker, I believe I have the same press clipping that the hon. member has. It is correct to say that negotiations have not broken down. The hon. member will notice in the press release that the mediator is quoted as saying, "I am not abandoning my inquiry, but I am suspending it for the time being". That is the situation at the present time.

This question and answer are recorded on page 987 of the Commons *Hansard* for Tuesday, June 10.

This answer, naturally, left the impression that the efforts of Mr. Taylor had not broken down, which is not according to statements made by Mr. Taylor himself in press interviews in Vancouver before he left there.

The Vancouver *Sun* of Tuesday, June 3, reports as follows:

Federal mediator Eric Taylor warned today the Canadian Pacific Railway ship strike "will continue indefinitely". "Talks between representatives of the C.P.R. and striking Seafarers International Union broke down Monday". Mr. Taylor said: "No further meetings have yet been planned and talks have been suspended for today. All I can say at the moment is that the C.P.R. strike will go on indefinitely."

The Vancouver *Daily Province* of Tuesday, June 3, reports as follows:

The first attempt to end the 18-day C.P.R. ship strike has failed. Special mediator Eric G. Taylor said Monday after a three-hour parley with both sides: "Nothing transpired to indicate that the strike will not continue indefinitely." A spokesman for the C.P.R. also confirmed the session had been