

Bancroft, Ontario

REFUTATION OF ALLEGED MISSTATEMENTS
CONCERNING BANCROFT AS A TOURIST ATTRACTION

should prevent the discussion of such a matter as atomic energy at this time. If we could resume those discussions we would do our best—and I know I am speaking for the other members as well as for the Canadian members of the group—to find out what the foreign secretary of the U.S.S.R. meant last autumn when he said that the government of the U.S.S.R. were now willing to accept a system of adequate inspection and control in return for the abolition of the bomb. He never explained what he meant by that; and until he gives that explanation, it is impossible for us to be optimistic that the Soviet government would in fact be willing to accept conditions which we consider to be absolutely necessary before we outlaw this terrible weapon.

Mr. Coldwell: Will the minister say what those conditions are?

Mr. Pearson: The conditions which have been laid down in a plan to which the great majority of the United Nations members have subscribed include inspection by a United Nations agency, not merely at the suggestion and with the approval of the government of the country in which the installation exists but inspection at any time that the international agency chooses to send its inspectors into that country, with full freedom to visit and to examine what is going on. Until we get that kind of inspection it would be difficult indeed to feel that a declaration banning the use of this weapon and destroying the weapons already in existence would be safe. That is the reason why we have not made more progress. No matter what the members of the communist party and their followers may say, that is the one and, as I understand it, the only great obstacle in the way of some agreement in this matter. But it is a fundamental obstacle that must be removed before agreement can be reached. I think, Mr. Speaker, that those are among the more concrete points raised during the course of the discussion. I know I have dealt with them only in a superficial way, but there may be an opportunity when my estimates are under discussion to go into some of these matters at greater length.

Meanwhile I should like to end my remarks by saying that we have reason to be encouraged by what we accomplished in London during the recent session of the council, but we certainly have no reason to be complacent about that meeting or about the course of international developments generally.

Mr. G. S. White (Hastings-Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, I wish briefly to bring to the attention of the house a matter that affects my own riding and various other ridings in eastern Ontario. I refer particularly to those ridings interested in the tourist business. I direct the attention of the house to an article published in a weekly newspaper, the *Montreal Standard*, in its issue of December 31, 1949, entitled "Bancroft was Tough". This article was written by Mr. Mackenzie Porter. It was slanderous in many respects, untrue in practically every statement made in it and most unfair to all the people of a very large community. It has given the tourist industry much adverse advertising.

One could only wonder how a reporter or a writer, if Mr. Porter can be classed as a reporter or a writer, or the editor of such a Canadian weekly paper could write or publish such an article without first checking or verifying even a few of the glaring untruths and slanderous statements made in this article.

Mr. Gibson: What is the name of the paper?

Mr. White (Hastings-Peterborough): The *Montreal Standard*. Everyone admits that the tourist industry is most important to all parts of Canada. The dominion government, all the provincial governments and many of the counties and other associations have their own tourist departments; and these agencies and departments send out books, maps, pamphlets and other literature to all parts of the North American continent, for the sole purpose of advertising our tourist attractions in the various parts of Canada.

Large sums of money are spent by dominion, provincial and municipal governments. For example, a short time ago a sportsman's show was held at Cleveland. The county of Hastings, in which Bancroft is located, had a booth at this show, and had two representatives from the county there over a period of a week. These two representatives were there for the sole purpose of distributing tourist literature and giving firsthand information with respect to the tourist facilities the county of Hastings has to offer.

For a number of years that county has published a tourist booklet consisting of forty-five pages, entitled "The Highlands of Hastings and the City of Belleville". The hon. member for Hastings South (Mr. Follwell), who resides in the city of Belleville, only last week sent each member of the House of Commons a copy of this very fine booklet which outlines some of the tourist attractions in the county of Hastings. The Peterborough *Examiner* each year puts out a very large special tourist vacation