

*Interim Supply*

[English]

Mr. Chairman, there is something which very often recurs in connection with that service of which I speak. Repeatedly, I have asked the Minister of Transport to endeavour to get the C.N.R. to improve the service, to this same headland. They feel the people who are served there are easy going, and therefore will not put any pressure on them. Let me assure you, Mr. Chairman, that the population already have shown their unwillingness to accept that service and their desire for a new service from Montreal to Gaspé.

If I might refer back to my remarks concerning the Postmaster General, I say we could still maintain the same mail service and give the C.N.R. some additional revenue. We would be doing two things at the same time. This is the reason I hope there will be some co-operation in this matter and some study made by the Department of Transport and the Postmaster General concerning these intended services. Although I think we could justify the service now, the addition of mail service would further justify it and improve the transportation system on the lower St. Lawrence.

On the subject of transportation I may say that, as members of the house will recall, a few years ago a bill was passed which provided for the construction of a rail line between Matane and Ste. Anne des Monts. At that time we said there would be great improvements in that area, and much research would be done with a view to finding natural resources. Although this government has refused to build that railway, we now have proof of the fact that had we gone ahead with that railway we would have had 700 Gaspésians employed. However, since the development of the area has been slowed down, they will have to wait a few years before they find employment. It is not an easy task to find employment for 700 or 800 people. This is something which should concern each and every one of us. I hope the government will consider the possibility of putting into effect that bill which was passed by those who are now the official opposition.

At this time, I should like to speak about a subject which is of deep concern to me; that is, the ship which has caused so many words to be written in the newspapers of La Belle province as well as outside the province of Quebec. This issue seems to have caught fire, because the people believe that the *Grande Hermine* should find a final berth at Gaspé. They feel history should not be distorted; that we should give to the birthplace of Canada

[Mr. Keays.]

what belonged to a man whom we honour on this occasion, the man who discovered Canada and took possession of the land of Gaspé in 1534. Pressures have been exerted by those in Quebec City who think they should have this ship. Let me tell you that if they wish as ardently as that to have a ship, they should ask for the ship of the founder of the city of Quebec. Let them have the replica of Champlain's ship, if they really need one, but give the *Grande Hermine* its proper place in history and at the same time help the economic situation which exists in the area.

You are aware, Mr. Chairman, that many millions of dollars have been spent studying the economic situation in the area and we have been confronted with the necessity of developing further our tourist industry. Tourism is something which can give more employment to the people, and bring more dollars to the area. In order to build up the tourist industry, we will have to develop our parks. We will have to have all the necessary amenities which tourists wish, as well as all the facilities; but there is something else which is needed. The people who visit this peninsula must know that they are going to the birthplace of Canada, and expect to see there something of our history.

● (5:20 p.m.)

Unfortunately, all they will see is a granite cross, because since 1534 we have forgotten that Gaspé was the birthplace of Canada. If we could get this ship, if the government would concern itself with the historic site we have requested for so many years, it would contribute a great deal to the tourist industry in that region and would be co-operating with those who have been entrusted with the development of the Gaspé peninsula. Everyone would then be working as a unit, and there would be a meeting of minds. I am sure, under those circumstances, within a few years we in that lower part of the province would be enjoying those facilities and services enjoyed in the other parts.

Let me go even further and suggest that the Auditor General should look at some of the expenses which will be incurred if we move that ship to Cartier Breboeuf park. How many millions of dollars is it going to cost to develop that park, and how many years will it take? How many hundreds of thousands of dollars will it cost to move that ship to Cartier Breboeuf park, and what do the engineers' reports suggest as to the feasibility of this proposal? I read recently that the bridges will have to be lifted to allow the passage