

Supply—Resources and Development

within perhaps a few weeks of obtaining a patent on it. His experimental models of the phonograph are also at Baddeck.

Bell was also one of the pioneers in the field of transportation by air, and began his experiments at the same time as the Wright brothers in Dayton, Ohio. He began extremely interesting experiments with tetrahedral kites, which he thought could be powered and developed into a more effective method of air transportation than the monoplane or biplane; and his tetrahedral kites, up to the model that actually lifted a man, are still in this building at Baddeck, along with his plans for the development of that kite into a machine that would carry human beings. Then he switched from that to the biplane, and it is a matter of historic record that the first aeroplane flown anywhere in the British empire was flown at Baddeck many years ago by the present lieutenant governor of Nova Scotia, John McCurdy. There is a monument commemorating that first flight, which occurred only a few years after the Wright brothers had flown their machine at Dayton. There are also models of propellers. There were no wind tunnels in those days, and Bell had to construct propellers with different angles to find which would produce the greatest drawing power as it revolved in the air.

Furthermore, there are interesting models of an invention he developed during the first world war, which was intended to be used against submarines. It might have had very important results if the war had continued longer. That invention was called the paravane, a name which was later given to an actual device attached to ships for use in connection with submarines. It was a long, narrow boat with lifting planes on the side which would carry the body of the craft out of water so that it could be carried along the surface by an air propeller. There are other unique inventions there. They have been recorded; information about them is available, but to nothing like the extent it should be, having regard to their immense scientific value, and above all to the challenge they constitute to young Canadians.

I mention this matter at this time because it is the first opportunity I have had to do so; the minister will recall that we had not reached this point in our discussions when the session terminated last spring. One of the things about which I am greatly concerned is the danger that this whole collection might be lost. While it is cared for at the present time, unless something has been done very recently it is not housed in a fireproof building. The whole collection, comparable to

[Mr. Drew.]

Edison's collection at Dearborn, could be lost not only to Canada but to the world; and this is a world collection.

I would strongly urge the minister to consider whether this is not a subject that might well be discussed with the historical group now meeting here, so that steps may be taken, by whatever plan may seem practical, to provide a museum at Baddeck which will be fireproof—it should be equipped with a sprinkler system—to assure to future generations of Canadians an opportunity of examining these exhibits which show what a man of vision and initiative can do simply by his own efforts.

We now have available the opportunity to give all the schools in Canada a record of these things by means of coloured photographs, which can be prepared very simply. I first became interested in this subject when I was minister of education in Ontario, and greatly wished that it were possible to present in effective sequence and full visual form some of these developments which are the heritage of all Canadians.

For the reasons I have put forward—first, that of preservation; second, that of making these things available to all Canadians, and third, to add to the attractions of what is already one of the loveliest spots in the whole of Canada, and which I am sure in the years ahead will become an increasingly important place for tourists to visit—I would urge that, not in the distant future but as soon as possible, steps be taken to house this great collection in a fireproof building and to make it available for inspection under the most favourable conditions.

Mr. Winters: I want to thank the leader of the opposition for his remarks in general; and I cannot overlook the fact that they were made about Nova Scotia, which is a veritable treasure house of historic background. The subjects with which he dealt are of particular interest to me, particularly the telephone, and I should be quite happy to sit here and listen to remarks in that vein for a much longer period of time. The gentleman who made the first aeroplane flight in the British empire is of course very well known to me, and I have no doubt he will be delighted at this reference to his activities in that field. The area with which my hon. friend dealt is particularly dear to the heart of the premier of Nova Scotia, who is very familiar with it and very fond of it.

Mr. Drew: He learned his Gaelic there.

Mr. Winters: That is where he learned his Gaelic, and where he still goes to practise