

Hon. Mr. McDONALD (*Kings*): Was that in connection with all the provinces?

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Were the engineers of the Department of Mines and Resources associated with the provincial highway engineers? The road from Pincher Creek to Waterton is now in a primitive condition and I had often wondered if the engineers of the Department of Mines and Resources had approved of the type of highway that was constructed.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: No, the construction of the roads were under the provincial governments—the Department of Public Works. The truth of the matter is that we are only learning now in this country how to build roads properly. In early years efforts in building permanent roads of a hard-surface type were not very effective. In other words, there was a tendency to stretch the money as far as possible and do a rather imperfect job insofar as permanency was concerned. One thing I think we have got to face in the future is the fact that the building of good roads in Canada—and when I say good roads I mean roads of a hard-surface nature—is going to be a very important matter.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: And a very costly one too.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: Yes, it will be a costly one, of course.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gibson, in relation to accommodation in these national parks you referred to cabins, and you make the suggestion that the government itself might build the cabins and then lease them. At the present time is it not a fact that tenders are offered and the concessionaire builds the cabins?

Mr. GIBSON: That is true, and they give a share of the postings to the dominion government.

The CHAIRMAN: Has that system proved to be satisfactory?

Mr. GIBSON: I think the main difficulty is that in order to attract the class of clientele that pays the highest rates, they may have to make a pretty big investment, and it is difficult for them to get the material they need. This results in delays in providing accommodation no matter how energetic the concessionaire may be. We envisage that we must have some scheme of providing accommodation at lower rates to the people. The concessionaires that we have now build their own places and must charge rather substantial rentals. We are hoping that it may be possible to have the rates reduced, so that more people can visit the park.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there a shortage of accommodation in the parks?

Mr. GIBSON: There is a shortage, all the time during the tourist season.

The CHAIRMAN: During the peak of the season?

Mr. GIBSON: During the whole tourist season, which is about two and a half months.

The CHAIRMAN: Is your camp grounds accommodation sufficient?

Mr. GIBSON: We have improved the camp grounds, and we have devised a new procedure there. In the large camp grounds we allow a concessionaire, who is always a returned soldier, to provide tents, stoves and blankets, and even to run a snack bar, for the convenience of people who go to the camp grounds and do not bring with them their own camp accommodation. Some people arrive there without making reservations, and without accommodation; they may go to the camp grounds concessionaire, who fits them out with a tent, blankets and a bed if they want one. We of course supply the place where the cooking is done; we have shelters with stoves, and we supply the wood for them. We also supply running water, and in some camp grounds we even have refrigeration; the locker is supplied, and it is refrigerated.