

Supply—Resources and Development

Mr. Winters: Yes, in the Canadian government travel bureau. But not in the other branches of the department.

Mr. Fraser: There is no other outside commercial agency?

Mr. Winters: That is right.

Mr. Kent: I wish to make a few remarks about national parks. When the departmental item was called this morning I was out of the house attending a committee meeting. I will have to leave again shortly, and therefore my words are going to be brief indeed. I assume the time will arrive in the near future when the possibility of establishing national parks in Newfoundland will come under consideration. I should like to draw the minister's attention to a couple of locations on the west coast of Newfoundland in my riding of Humber-St. George's which I think might receive consideration. My constituency has been described by a former prime minister of Newfoundland as the garden of Newfoundland. There are many places where national parks could be established. I particularly wish to mention the Serpentine area and the upper Humber. The valley of the Serpentine river is renowned both in Newfoundland and outside for its beauty. Standing on the well-wooded hills overlooking Serpentine lake and river one beholds a panorama of beauty. As I understand a national park it is a place where travellers, visitors or tourists may drive off the highway, enter and relax. To my mind the Serpentine area is ideal for this purpose, and the same remarks would apply to the valley of the upper Humber. These areas abound in wildlife of all kinds, including caribou, moose, wildfowl, and so on. There are other similar places in my riding as well, but all I wish to do is draw the attention of the minister to these points and to my riding in general, so that when the time comes to consider the establishment of a national park the west coast may not be forgotten. I feel sure Newfoundland will be treated well, that it will be surveyed and the most suitable place for the park selected.

Mr. Winters: Possible sites for national parks in Newfoundland have been under consideration and study by officials of the department. At the present time one of our officials is on his way back to Ottawa after conducting a survey of the Serpentine area to determine its suitability as a national park.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): I should like to direct one inquiry to the minister. Though it is not covered by any particular item, I know it has his personal blessing and the blessing of the department and the government. I refer to the possible tidal development at the head of the bay of Fundy,

which was brought before this house by the hon. member for Westmorland. At that time the minister gave the assurance that a survey would be made. I understand that a survey has been made, and I should like to know if the minister is prepared to make a report. This is one of the greatest tidal development possibilities in the world; it is calculated that more power can be produced there than in the international section of the St. Lawrence river. It is estimated that the power available will amount to 2,300,000 horsepower. Is the minister prepared today to report on the position at the present time?

Mr. Winters: I am well aware of the interest my hon. friend has in that project, which has tremendous potentialities. It involves the use of the great tides in the bay of Fundy. The particular one to which he has reference would require both a low water basin and a high water basin with an average head, I would imagine, of from twenty to twenty-five feet over the twenty-four hour period. Mr. W. A. Melanson, of whom we have heard in this house before, wrote a report on this development, which I have read. It really was not an engineering treatise, but was more of a general treatment; so we sent one of our departmental engineers from Halifax to discuss the project with Mr. Melanson and make a general survey of the area. That has been done; the matter was discussed with Mr. Melanson, and the engineer flew over the site my hon. friend has in mind at the moment, as well as the other site where the Petitcodiac meets the Memramcook. As yet he has not sent in his report, at least it has not come to my attention.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): I thank the minister for the information he has given, though it is still very indefinite. I want to point out how important it is that a decision be arrived at as soon as possible; for this proposal is in conflict with the suggested Chignecto canal, which is being urged so diligently by a great many people in the maritime provinces, and is also in conflict with the reclamation of the largest portion of the marshlands in Nova Scotia. If this tidal development is proceeded with, it will mean that another, though equally effective, plan must be drawn up with respect to the marshlands. That is why I point out that it is doubly urgent that a decision be arrived at as soon as possible.

Mr. Higgins: I should like to endorse the plea of the hon. member for Humber-St. George's with respect to a national park in the area he mentioned. In my opinion that is the most suitable area in Newfoundland.