

## SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the second reading of the Bill.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Is this part of the programme of economy?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The establishment of a park does not imply expenditure of money.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: It does, to me.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Are these places for the unemployed to sit in?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Bill reads as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as The Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island National Parks Act, 1936.

2. The lands described in the schedule to this Act, the title to which has been vested in the Crown in the right of Canada, are hereby set apart as a National Park of Canada, and the said park shall be subject to the provisions of The National Parks Act, chapter thirty-three of the statutes of 1930.

3. The Governor in Council may, by proclamation, add to the said park such lands in Cape Breton as may be agreed upon by the province of Nova Scotia and Canada as being suitable for an addition to the said National Park, providing the province furnishes Canada with clear title to the said lands.

4. The Governor in Council may authorize the granting of leases to the settlers in the settlements at Pleasant Bay for their building sites and improved lands.

Those are the clauses dealing with Nova Scotia. The explanatory notes are as follows:

2. New areas to be administered and developed as national parks under the National Parks Act can be established only by Act of Parliament.

3. The clause provides for additions to the park area that may be desirable after further examination on the ground. There is a small area in the northern part of Cape Breton Island that it is intended to include in the park as soon as the province has surveyed the boundaries of the area and furnished the Dominion with a description of it. This particular area consists of a strip of provincially owned land immediately east of the county line between Inverness and Victoria counties and lies approximately west of the Aspy Bay district. While the size of this area is not known at the present time, it is not expected that it will exceed 25 square miles. Consideration may be given later to the addition of a small area of approximately 12 square miles in the Bras d'Or Lakes district.

4. There are some 50 families residing in the Pleasant Bay district, which area will be included in the national park. These settlements are well established and of long standing. While the province will acquire title to the land and convey it to the Dominion, it is desirable that provision be made so that the present owners may continue in residence under leasehold. There is no provision under the National Parks Act for the issue of

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leases for any lands except in regularly surveyed townsites. Clause 4 authorizes the Governor in Council to issue leases to these settlers covering their building sites and improved lands after such lands become part of the national park area. An annual rental will be payable to the Dominion for such leased properties.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: There are as yet no national parks in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: No.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: It may interest honourable members to know that the honourable senator from Prince (Hon. Mr. MacArthur) has offered free of cost a large tract of land in Prince Edward Island for use as a public park. I understand that his offer is now being considered by the Government.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I am in favour of the measure, especially if it is correct that there is now no national park in either province. The system appears to be that the province acquires the title and provides the land; then the land comes under the provisions of the National Parks Act in order that it may be developed as and when moneys are made available. Certainly no province has more natural advantages from the standpoint of scenery and general attractiveness than the province of Nova Scotia. I am inclined to think the province of Prince Edward Island is too much a fertile garden to have those peculiar properties which go to the making of a national park. However, it is well that every opportunity be given to develop a park there, if it can be done.

Hon. Mr. TANNER: The Government of Nova Scotia is acquiring a large tract of land on the northern part of the Island of Cape Breton. The province provides the land, as my right honourable friend says.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

## THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

## PROROGATION—BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable senators, there is a possibility of prorogation before midnight. I understand there are but one or two bills to come from the House of Commons. I would suggest therefore that we adjourn until 7.45 this evening. After we