

Supply—Resources and Development

usually does. The matter of historic sites in the general area to which the hon. member for Lake Centre refers was brought to my attention some time ago by the hon. member for Prince Albert, who had in mind particularly the old R.C.M.P. barracks at North Battleford. We have referred that project to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, which happens to be meeting in Ottawa this week.

I can assure the hon. member for Lake Centre that I shall be very happy to ask the board to take into full consideration the remarks he has made this morning. I am sure they will find them interesting and helpful. Watrous lake is in an area that has been developed somewhat commercially. I understand the property is owned by the province. To my knowledge we have received no request from the province to develop the area, but should one be received we shall of course be pleased to give it full consideration.

As to the remarks of the hon. member for Lanark about Champlain's astrolabe, which I understand is a sextant type of instrument for determining longitude and latitude, as he said, it is now lodged in a museum in New York. We will see what can be done about having it returned to Canada. There are many instances in which valuable historic instruments have been given to Canadian museums and now form a part of the historic background of the country. I also wish to thank the hon. member for Meadow Lake and the hon. member for Cariboo for the remarks they have made, which have contributed to this phase of the discussion of the estimates.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, since the minister was kind enough to refer to my reference to Gabriel Dumont, may I say that what I said was indeed the fact. He was the greatest buffalo hunter that any part of North America ever produced, although his activities do not occupy such a prominent place in history as those of Buffalo Bill, by reason of the fact that the latter toured the world.

I should like to mention in connection with Batoche that there is another reason why the battlefield should be set aside as a national monument. At Batoche on May 9, 1885, there took place the only naval engagement that has been fought inland in North America since the war of 1812. In that area there are many metis descendants of those who participated in the rebellion under Louis Riel. They are good Canadian citizens. I know of nothing that would be more appreciated by them, as well as by the descendants of the whites who participated on the other side in

the rebellion, than to set aside the battlefield at Batoche as a permanent memorial and as evidence of the unity of the descendants of those who were engaged on opposing sides in the rebellion.

Mr. Drew: While we are discussing these historic matters there is one subject I should like to refer to which comes under the general heading associated with museums and is not actually covered by any item.

In view of the fact that this department is charged with the responsibility of supporting the national museum of Canada and national historic sites, I suggest that there is a most important historical collection which should be placed in a museum, not only in the interests of the locality where the collection now is, but also in the interests of the whole of Canada. Strangely enough, little is known throughout Canada generally of the remarkable collection of experimental telephone models, carried right through to the final stage of development by Alexander Graham Bell, which are now collected at Baddeck, Nova Scotia, in a building near his old home. When we speak of history it is not necessary that something be seventy-five or a hundred years old to make it an important part of the history of Canada. The achievements of Alexander Graham Bell in Canada constitute a great record of individual initiative which can be a source of inspiration and encouragement to Canadians young and old. In the building near his old home is a collection which I should think is quite as interesting as the collection of experimental models and actual finished developments of Thomas Edison, which are housed at Dearborn in buildings provided by the late Henry Ford. That in the United States the corresponding collection of a man who was engaged at the same time in many similar fields has been taken care of privately in no way alters the fact that we should all be interested in the preservation and the appropriate recording of the essential details connected with the great achievements of Alexander Graham Bell.

At Baddeck are the experimental models of the instrument which evolved into the telephone so widely used today. It is interesting to note that there were two men on the continent of North America carrying on experiments in similar fields. It was really a race whether Alexander Graham Bell or Thomas Edison would invent the telephone. Edison was experimenting with a telephone, but Bell perfected and patented the invention first, and the models and drawings are all there. Edison invented the phonograph. Bell was working on a phonograph, and was