

*Historic Sites and Monuments Act*

that one of the reasons I have such a great interest in this matter is that I believe a properly supported board, whose policy would be a true recognition of the national historic sites and monuments, would build up what I am afraid we lack at the present moment in our country, that is a real understanding of Canada and a pride in being Canadian. I believe that more support for and more forward looking policies by this board would do a great deal toward the recognition of Canada as a nation and the encouragement of pride in Canada. I believe there are too many citizens of Canada who consider themselves as hyphenated Canadians, as English-Canadians, French-Canadians, Chinese-Canadians, etc.

It is my feeling that the majority of people whom I meet want to be Canadians and have a pride in being Canadians. I have had the opportunity over the years to travel in other countries of the world and have found a fantastic respect for Canada and Canadians, even more than we have for ourselves. I think that one way of getting over what might be called an inferiority complex is to proceed with greater speed toward the establishment of a policy recognizing the importance of national historic sites and monuments. In particular, we should try to overcome a failure of the past by encouraging the board to work in co-operation, co-ordination, liaison and partnership with provincial historic sites committees and municipal archivists.

I was most interested in reading the minutes of proceedings and evidence No. 12 of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development covering the meetings that were held on March 10 and March 11 of this year. At page 287 of the proceedings we have the evidence of Mr. Gordon, who is I understand, senior assistant deputy minister responsible for conservation. He had the following to say to the committee:

The principal objective is to commemorate major events, persons, places and structures of truly national historic significance in such a way that history is brought alive for Canadians, students and adults alike.

I certainly agree with that statement and hope that with the addition of one member to the board, and a new approach which he might bring, we will see the achievement of the objective as laid down in the words I have just quoted. But if this objective is to be achieved, there must be, as I said a few moments ago, a greater recognition of the need for the national board to establish a more close liaison with provincial committees

and municipal archivists, so as to better commemorate major events, persons, places and structures.

• (5:50 p.m.)

I should like to give an example of what I mean by co-operation, liaison and partnership. The city of Vancouver is the major city on the west coast of our great country. At the present time it is the third largest city in Canada. It is growing at such a rate that, in the near future, the population of metropolitan Vancouver will exceed one million. Yet, I found it absolutely impossible over the years to encourage action to be taken to recognize the historic nature of Vancouver. I should like to refer to what we in Vancouver East call New Brighton, a park which is under the jurisdiction of the park commissioners of Vancouver. It was in this area that the City of Vancouver was commenced. In this small area, in this corner of Vancouver East, the first wharf, the first hotel, the first post office, the first customs building were established. Sketches and photographs are in the hands of that famous archivist of Vancouver, Major Matthews. Yet it has been impossible over the years to obtain any recognition on the part of the national board that this should be a national historic site. With all the records which are available we could rebuild the first hotel, or at least the façade, the first post office, the first customs house, the first wharf, and so on.

The parks commission of Vancouver would be happy to co-operate in any way—to carry on the administration and to look after it—if there could only be a recognition of the case for preservation which, as has been pointed out, is really the objective of this body. Yet one cannot get anywhere.

Millions of dollars can be voted to rebuild an old fort in the maritimes or a fort somewhere else, but when it comes to a project of this nature on the west coast there is no co-operation, no partnership, because the founding of the City of Vancouver is apparently not of national historic interest.

I have used this case as an example. I am just as interested in national historic sites and monuments all across the Dominion of Canada. But I do have a strong impression that even the board itself cannot have this feeling of being Canadian, this feeling for recognition of our history, this feeling for building and reconstructing and marking in such a way that the people of our country, especially those who have come here in recent years,