

much delay, for that reason, as well as for the fact that it is not a very comfortable barracks for soldiers.

Considered as a residence for the Governor General, it is as good as it may be. I think it was generally agreed when this subject was under discussion last year or the year before in another place, that it was desirable from a romantic and sentimental, as well as a political point of view, that their Excellencies should live for a portion of each year in the Ancient Capital.

It is, however, as a national monument, or rather as a historic site, that we look upon it now. It is undoubtedly a historic landmark, and, as I said at the beginning, it would be a shocking thing if the people of Canada stood by with their hands in their pockets and saw this magnificent old fort fall into disrepair.

But there is a practical side to the question, and I should like to draw attention to that. This is not the first time I have heard the matter discussed. Some months ago while in Quebec I met some people who were interested in the subject, and I gave them an idea which I shall now give to the House. As an interesting historic site the Citadel plays, and will continue to play, a large part in the tourist trade. Visitors from the United States are particularly interested in things that are old. They preserve very few relics of by-gone days in their own country, their tendency being rather to look to the future. So these old historic fortifications are the centre of much attraction to travellers from the other side of the line, and the resulting tourist business is of distinct advantage both to the Province and the City of Quebec. I gravely doubt whether the present Government, or any Government, would be prepared, from a political point of view, to spend large sums of money upon the preservation of historic sites. They will build a monument here and there, put up a brass plate here and there, acquire some cheap land here and there, but it is not politically a sound principle to undertake the preservation at great expense of a large— and, from a utilitarian point of view, useless— mass of masonry, merely as a historic landmark. Regardless of how sympathetically any Government may look upon the question, it is my opinion that no administration would be prepared to advance the large sums of money necessary for such a purpose.

But, having regard to the benefit that would accrue to the City and the Province of Quebec through the interest of tourists in these ancient military works, it occurs to me that if these beneficiaries would be prepared to assume a portion of the necessary cost, then the Government might agree to contribute—

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH.

to a greater extent than the City and the Province, of course; and I believe there would be a better chance then of receiving the approval of Parliament than if it were proposed to put the whole burden on the federal treasury. I say that because I come from a remote part of Canada where we have no ancient monuments, where many of the people are not interested at all in things that belong to the past and are apt to raise their voices against the assumption by the Government of an undertaking of this sort unaided by the chief beneficiaries. If, as an evidence of their interest, the City and the Province of Quebec would signify their intention to contribute towards the total cost of necessary repairs and maintenance, I think that from a political point of view the Government would feel on much safer ground in asking for an appropriation, and it is likely that a much larger sum would be voted by Parliament than if such assistance were not forthcoming. That is the proposal which I made to those I met in the City of Quebec, and in renewing the suggestion here I wish to be understood as firmly convinced of the importance of maintaining this ancient monument in the best possible state of repair.

The honourable gentleman from Lauzon (Hon. Mr. BÉLAND) has very eloquently pointed out the strong modern tendency toward materialism and vandalism in this country, and the consequently urgent necessity for the steadying influence and spiritual benefit that are to be derived from consideration of venerable landmarks. I am entirely in agreement with that sentiment. I wholeheartedly support those who advocate the maintenance in a reasonable state of repair of the Quebec Citadel and fortifications, and I suggest to those who are earnest in sponsoring governmental action in the matter that they should be politic and use guile, if necessary, with a view to having offers of financial assistance made by the City and the Province of Quebec.

Right Hon. G. P. GRAHAM: Honourable gentlemen, when I saw this resolution on the Order Paper I little dreamed that we were to be treated to such eloquent speeches as we have had this afternoon. I should like to congratulate one of the new members of the Senate (Hon. Mr. Paradis) on the eloquence and earnestness of his address. My honourable friend from Grandville (Hon. Mr. Chapais) has a particular right to speak on this matter, because he is a son of one of the Fathers of Confederation. I well remember that one of the most eloquent and forceful addresses during the celebration of the Jubilee