

Supply—Northern Affairs

especially the land in the town of Niagara. I feel this should be preserved for some type of historic park. We are using it at the present time for a small amount of civil defence practice and a small amount of cadet training, but the day will come when the land may be disposed of. We hear many rumours from time to time to this effect.

I would be very much against seeing the land sold off for a housing subdivision or some other purpose. I think some kind of arrangement could be made whereby the golf course would be transferred from the Fort Mississauga location, and Fort Mississauga could be restored and made open to the public. The golf course could be put in another place, probably somewhere within these 1,000 acres of military camp land.

People from the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources have visited the area. They are interested in establishing a bird sanctuary on part of this land. I think that would be an excellent scheme because many of the migratory birds that fly south stop over there on the way down. At the present time there is nothing appropriate there. I feel part of that land should be used as a bird sanctuary because it is situated on lake Ontario.

There is also an area a few miles from there where are found the remains of the first Welland canal which was built in 1824 and I feel that since this was the beginning of the linking up of the great lakes something should be done in that area to commemorate the history of the building of that canal. As I say, it was built in 1824, which is a long time ago. There is a committee composed of local historians in the area which is interested in something of this kind and they have contacted the department. I would ask the minister to give consideration to making some arrangements for the disposal of the thousand acres of campsite and for preserving Fort Mississauga. Also, something significant should be done about commemorating the first Welland ship canal on part of the land which is available at the present time.

Mr. Pickersgill: I should like to support warmly what has been said by the hon. member for Lincoln and I do so as a descendant of one of Butler's rangers which, I think, gives me a claim at least as great as that of the hon. gentleman to support claims made on behalf of Niagara. In my opinion this is far and away the most historic spot in Upper Canada and I think it should be preserved in the way Williamsburg has been preserved in the United States. I think the hon. member has been, if anything, too modest. The whole place is deserving of commemoration, not merely isolated parts of it. I suggest that

a good many of the buildings in that town should be restored, because nearly every one of them is of historic interest.

I may be biased because of a family interest in the place—it has an attraction for some of us in the house, at any rate, as Butler's burying ground—but I believe this to be one of the most attractive towns in Canada particularly in view of the fact that, like Niagara Falls itself, it is adjacent to the largest concentration of population in the whole of North America. It would be a good national investment if we could persuade some Canadian Rockefeller to treat it as Williamsburg has been treated.

Mr. Smith (Lincoln): I should just like to tell the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillington that Butler's burying ground is well preserved and well cared for. It is a place which attracts many tourists. There is also the old St. Mark's church and St. Andrew's church. The original churches have been there for over two hundred years. They are in good shape. I thoroughly agree we have a setting there for a historic town which would be equal to anything in the United States.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Those last observations of the hon. member for Lincoln and the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillington have caused me to rise and say a few words about an equally historic centre, the county of Essex and, of course, the city of Windsor. I am not going to indulge in considerations of priority at this time, but since the minister is just in the early months of his administration, I should like to take this opportunity of saying to him that we shall welcome him to Essex county in his capacity as Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

He will find many institutions of great historic interest. He will find the county and the community replete with Canadian history that goes back well over several centuries. In fact he will find families in Essex county who have a direct descentance during this period one of which is recognized by the name of the main street in the city of Windsor, Ouellette avenue. I point out to the minister that I think it would be useful for him to consult with his officials and find details of the generalizations that I am now making. He would find, for instance, in the Baby museum a historical museum that is rich with the memories of the past of this particular area. He would find, too, that his historic sites division has taken a great interest in this museum. I should like, here, to pay a tribute particularly to the late Mr. George Macdonald, one of the leading citizens of Windsor, for his work in connection with that museum as well as other personalities in Windsor among whom was the late Don