

Historic Sites and Monuments Act

completion of confederation in the early 1870's, by the addition of Saskatchewan and Alberta in the year 1905.

The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) was there and in his remarks emphasized the great importance of these historic sites as symbols of the progress of Canada toward nationhood and as examples to the young population of Canada today of some of the trials, tribulations and privations which were endured by the early settlers in this country. The restoration of the lower Fort Garry site was begun in 1960. It has taken almost nine years to complete and it is not finished as yet, but the big house which was the Hudson Bay factor's residence, the residence of Sir George Simpson back in the early part of the century, has been completely restored and furnished with period furniture. Last year, even before it was officially opened I understand, there were 137,000 tourists who visited the site. I say that it is not quite completed because in the total representation of that period of history it was felt that the Indian community which grew up around the site should be represented in historic reproduction and in animation. There is partial animation today. Troops of the period and various trades that were carried on at that time are represented, but we still have to go one step further and display the activities of our first Canadians. There should be representation of this sadly neglected group until recent times, our Canadian Indians, and the role that they played in making old lower Fort Garry a viable trading post by reason of the fact that the Indians were willing to come in with the furs. This was the first economic activity in many parts of this country.

The restoration of Louisbourg in the maritimes is well on the way. It will be a tremendous development which will not only represent an important stage of Canadian history but also will be one of the major tourist attractions.

I have already mentioned the fact that the omission of representatives from the northern territories is unfortunate, and perhaps I should end on this note because I am dealing with sins of omission rather than commission. This bill is conspicuous for what it does not do rather than for what it does do. I think the greatest historic site in Canada is the old city of Dawson in the Yukon territory which was declared a national historic site in 1961. I say it is the greatest historic site because it was the focal point of that great mass movement of men and women from all over the world

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

along the trail of 1898, the gold rush of that year. Dawson city has been put into story by Jack London. It has been dealt with by that immortal comic, Charlie Chaplin. It has been immortalized in the poems of the Sourdough written by Robert Service, and unfortunately there has been no further development in the preservation of this classic example of Canadian history since the early 1960's. I am sure that had there been a spokesman from the Yukon territory on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board he would have kept this important subject before the members of the board in season and out of season. At least we have a cross-fertilization between the museum and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I hope that now we will be able to compensate sufficiently the members of the board who are all outstanding people in their knowledge and understanding of Canadian history. Then, they will become even more diligent in carrying out their responsibilities and putting pressure on the government to act in an area that has been neglected far too long.

It is important to preserve our history and to commemorate and erect our monuments. That is the historic aspect of the problem. But it is equally important to provide facilities for our growing and booming tourist industry as well as to meet the leisure time needs of the Canadian population. I am sorry that the government did not take advantage of this bill to press on with their responsibilities in this matter. As I said, we have no criticism to make because there is nothing in the bill of importance and therefore it cannot be criticized.

• (5:40 p.m.)

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, this bill is really a housekeeping proposal which will make possible the addition to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada of a representative of the National Museum. However, discussion of this matter affords an opportunity to express a view of the function of the board itself and of the work it is doing. I have a few comments and three suggestions to make.

It may be of some interest to note that it was in 1919, just 50 years ago, that the first Commissioner of Dominion Parks sent a memorandum to his minister—at that time designated the minister of the interior—which led to the setting up of this particular board. The board is a small body and a hard working one; its work increases as the interest of Canadians in their past increases and as the