

*Historic Sites*

The hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Neil) pointed out that this should have been done a long while ago, and stated that he hoped there would be more endeavours to give representation to these two territories. I would just remind him, although he is not present this evening—

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** He is here.

**Mr. Penner:** Thank you very much. I would just remind him, although he probably knows it as well as I do, that it is the policy of the government, on a basis of evolution, increasingly to provide representative and responsible government to the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

The hon. member for Moose Jaw quite correctly chastised me for not mentioning in my opening remarks the number of visitors to historic sites in the province of Saskatchewan. The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Hnatyshyn) indicated how many members from Saskatchewan were speaking in today's debate. He pointed out that Saskatchewan had a great deal to contribute to the history of this country and that in fact I was guilty of an oversight. I must confess my guilt in this regard. I feel particularly badly about it because I was born in the wonderful province of Saskatchewan.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Penner:** My parents, my father recently deceased, were also born in the province of Saskatchewan.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Then why are you a Liberal?

**Mr. Penner:** That is why, indeed. The summer before last I had the privilege of being a delegate to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association which visited Saskatchewan. We held meetings in the legislative buildings in Regina. Part of that delegation made a visit to Batoche. Therefore, having been there, I know what the hon. member for Moose Jaw and the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar are referring to, as well as their references to Duck Lake, Fish Creek and Fort Carlton.

I was particularly delighted that the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton), a former minister of Indian affairs and northern development, saw fit to participate in the debate. He made a very useful contribution. His suggestions will, of course, be taken under advisement. I am particularly grateful to that hon. member for having mentioned the recent work by Dr. Creighton, "The Historic Beginnings of Canada", a well written, scholarly and beautifully illustrated book. The hon. member thought it would not have wide circulation or interest in this country. I am sure that as more Canadians know about that book, they will be anxious to read it and acquire it for their own libraries.

A number of members this afternoon made important representations, directed through the minister to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. Representations were made by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar to whom I have already

[Mr. Penner.]

referred, the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River (Mr. Oberle), the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo (Mr. Beatty) who received strong support from the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Foster), the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Malone), the hon. member for Norfolk-Halldimand (Mr. Knowles), the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes) and the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon). I wish to remind all these hon. gentlemen that the representations they made have been carefully noted and that the *Hansard* report of today's debate will be carefully studied by the board. In addition the minister will pay attention to it.

It is not unusual, when an opportunity like this arises, that every hon. member has a suggestion as to how a particular board or agency of the government should spend its money. As I said in my opening remarks, in this current year we only have \$19 million to spend. We are going to ask for more money in the next fiscal year. Of course it will be recognized that if we were to meet all of the requests made this afternoon, we would have to ask for more money than we would have any hope of receiving. However, I do not wish to discourage any hon. members on the cases that they presented so well today.

As Canadians we must pay a great deal more attention to our history. We must be prepared to invest more money in our history. We pay a great deal of lip service to national unity and the national character of Canada, but we do not always adequately carry through with the commitment of expenditures that historic sites, monuments and personages so well deserve.

In conclusion, I want to thank again all members for a useful and interesting debate. I wish there were other ways in which we could provide an opportunity for members to talk about their constituencies and the history they know so well. This would contribute very much to a good record in the House of Commons with regard to the history of this country, much of which is not as well known as it ought to be.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

\* \* \*

● (2100)

**STATUTE LAW (METRIC CONVERSION)  
AMENDMENT ACT, 1976**

AMENDMENTS TO WHEAT BOARD ACT TO FACILITATE  
CONVERSION TO METRIC MEASUREMENT

**Hon. Len Marchand (for Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce)** moved that Bill C-23, to facilitate conversion to the metric system of measurement, be read the second time