

*Supply—Resources and Development*

I ask the minister to consider making available members of the engineering staff or officials who would be able to give expert advice to the people of Watrous so that measures may be taken for the preservation of this lake. It might well be called an historical monument, because over the years this lake has been and still is regarded by the Indians, as the Ganges is in India, as a place where the spirit can be renewed by bathing in the waters.

If we are to build up a true Canadianism; if we are to have unity with no division because of race, colour or creed, nothing will contribute as much as the preservation of sites and areas which are so much a part of our history and tradition. Both Batoche and Fish Creek are shrines to the people of Saskatchewan, and they should be preserved for the future. If something is not done within the next six months or a year—I visited these battlefields within the last few weeks—they will be lost completely to posterity.

**Mr. Murray (Cariboo):** May I say a word in support of the idea of preserving these historic sites in Saskatchewan? In setting aside these sites as shrines may I suggest that a small niche be provided in which could be placed a bust or statue of Louis Riel, once a member of this parliament, to remind the people that a great leader died the death of a martyr while fighting for his own people. A few days ago we memorialized the anniversary of Jan Smuts, who at one time fought against the crown. Some days ago this parliament paid a tribute to Jan Smuts, who at one time was a rebel but who lived to play a great part in the cause of democracy throughout the world.

Students of Canadian history who have followed the story of the northwest rebellion must realize that the central figure in that rebellion—he may have acted unwisely or rashly—was a true leader of his people. Louis Riel who led a lost cause, though he died upon the scaffold, is today regarded as a patriot and martyr by a considerable section of the Canadian people.

**Mr. Blair:** Mr. Chairman, I have a matter which might more properly be brought up under item 366 or item 370, but like the hon. member for Lake Centre I expect to be attending a committee meeting. I refer to the astrolabe of Champlain, who was one of the greatest early explorers of this country. Any hon. member who visits Nepean Point will find there a statue of this great early Canadian explorer, looking up the Ottawa river toward the scene of some of his early explorations, and holding in his hands a scientific instrument for the taking of latitude and longitude. He had used it when he was searching for the northwest passage.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

In his memoirs Champlain tells of how he lost this instrument. Some years ago a farmer near Cobden found it when ploughing, but unfortunately it found its way to a collection in New York. This instrument should be in our national museum. Not only is it an instrument used by one of the greatest explorers; it is a tangible reminder of the great things he did for this country. I feel that it belongs to Canada, and I suggest that an effort be made to have it brought back and placed in our national museum.

At the same time I should like to pay tribute to the work of Harry J. Walker, of this city, who has written so much about this district and about early exploration in Canada. The other night Mr. Walker brought this matter up at a meeting in the county of Renfrew. He suggested that the department should make some effort to bring the astrolabe back to Canada and place it in our national museum. It belongs here. It is one of the most valuable scientific souvenirs of those times that is in existence. It is something that is closely linked with the history of this country. It is a part of Canada.

**Mr. Harrison:** I should like to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. member for Lake Centre as to setting aside the historic sites of Fish Creek and Batoche. I think there should be added to them for the benefit of posterity the historic site of Rat Foot hill. At this point the last battle ever fought on Canadian soil took place between Major Steele and Chief Big Bear. Close to this site is the location of the Frog Lake massacre. A short distance away from that is old Fort Pitt, which I visited last year, and where a private party has erected a monument. In farming operations they had plowed up the old Fort Pitt graveyard. The number of people who turned out for the ceremony lend point to the arguments raised by the hon. member for Lake Centre that there are a great many people interested in such things. They should be preserved for our children and our children's children through all generations, to bring to their attention our early history. I have no doubt that as time passes, these sites will become important places of interest. I strongly support the argument of the hon. member for Lake Centre, and I should also like to add the historic site of Rat Foot hill, where, as I have said, the last battle fought on Canadian soil took place.

**Mr. Winters:** Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Lake Centre always seems to have an interesting story to tell the house, and the one he told touching on Buffalo Bill and other similar characters was no exception. He has made a good contribution, as he