

before the House by hon. gentlemen opposite, were all names strange to the country given by surveyors and engineers. I am glad the hon. leader of the Opposition now finds the old names given by the voyageurs and others should be retained. In British Columbia there is a lake called Lake la Hache, a name given it by voyageurs whose canoe loaded with axes became upset and the axes went to the bottom. That name is still retained, and there is no reason why it should be changed, as the name is easily pronounced. At another place a small river is called the River Tache, no doubt through its having been discovered by an ancestor of the venerable Archbishop of St. Boniface. At another place you find the River Mackenzie. Why change that name? We should keep the old names whether English, French or Indian, provided the latter are not unpronounceable. We should make it the business of officers not to destroy those landmarks.

Mr. MILLS. It was said by an old Roman writer, that when men were rising from the condition of barbarism, they left off their trade of cracking crowns and manufactured verbs and nouns. We are engaged very much in the same sort of business here to-night. Having no important measure to discuss, we have gone into a question of historical and geographical nomenclature for the North-West country. Are people who establish cities and villages there, to be of no consequence? Was the country to have no history between this and the day of judgment? It may be very important to retain those old Indian names. Many places have been misnamed. For instance, the most western county in Ontario, is called Essex; some antiquarian at some future period, may think that this was a settlement made from Michigan. So we have a county called Norfolk, which one might hereafter think was a settlement from the north side of Erie or Pennsylvania. Doubtless many European names have been employed and misapplied in this country; but the Government cannot undertake to regulate the naming of places in a country, nor can it preserve the names of places such as those given to particular localities in the North-West Territory. When you consider the vastness of the country and the small number of places particularly designated, you will see how very little Government have to do with the matter. When you look at the geographical nomenclature of England, you will see that every wave of settlement that came into the country, whether Roman, Saxon or Danish, impressed itself upon the geography of the country. So you can mark Danish settlements by places whose names end with the termination "by," such as Selby, Derby, etc., Roman settlements or camps by names ending with the termination "chester," "cester" and "caster." These people became an integral part of the population of the country. Subsequent events reach back to these indelible marks of their first settlement. But with what object are we seeking to preserve Indian names of places, or even those fixed by voyageurs? What important transactions have been connected with them to induce us to take a historic interest in preserving the particular nomenclature which they have given? The member for West Durham says we have a road called the Dawson. That was a very modern name, but my impression is that it is falling into desuetude, and others are still more likely to experience that fate. For the same reason the names given by the Indians and voyageurs who have gone to the North-West, will disappear. They are not the people who make a country or its history. At the same time, the principle of the survival of the fittest may be left to operate in the North-West. Names of historic interest will remain, and those of no importance will disappear. I was rather surprised at the instance given by the Minister of Public Works in dealing with this subject. He said that because a canoe was upset and some axes lost in the bottom of the lake, the event was of sufficient historic interest as to entitle it to give the name to a large sheet of water for all

Mr. LANGEVIN.

time. That may be his view, but it is not mine, nor do I think it will be the view of the great majority of the members of the House, or of the people who are to occupy that country. It seems to me we could employ our time better in the public interest than in undertaking legislation with a view to keep alive the names of the tribes of savages who have already become extinct. With regard to voyageurs and Indians, I think the matter of preserving their names may be left to take care of itself.

Mr. LANDRY. Mr. Speaker, I cannot allow the speech of the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) to pass without protesting. The hon. member asks with astonishment, and I understand his astonishment, whether he is not acquainted with the history of his country, and what good the pioneers of these vast regions have done. Sir, if he went back a little, if he studied a little the history of the past few years, he would find names worthy of his attention, facts that he might meditate upon, and men whose example he might follow. He maintains that it is not for a few Indian tribes that have perished, and a few pioneers, to give their names to the different places in the North-West. That hon. gentleman may say what he likes, but when the hardy pioneers, armed with the cross of their God, and holding in their hand the standard of their King, went through these immense solitudes, treaded the virgin soil of the great forest of the new world, climbed steep mountain sides—there often to leave their lives—we should at least respect the names that tradition has handed down to us, and if we find them on the soil beneath our feet let us not wipe out the glorious mark; and the hon. member should be the first to respect tradition and accept the accomplished fact. I ask you, Sir, if we were to listen to our hon. opponent and accept his views, what name would we have to give to our continent if Americus Vespucci had not given his name to it, and what would British Columbia be called if the glorious discoverer of the new world had not found this land and left it a name that is dear to us? The far west has also its history; we should respect it, and cherish as a tradition the ancient names found therein. That is, perhaps, the only legacy that we possess of those bygone days, and I think that the hon. member for Bothwell, instead of opposing this measure, should join with all the members of this House and ask for this correspondence, which only requests that the Government should take the means of securing the preservation of the names that exist in those far off countries discovered by our ancestors.

Mr. DAWSON. The hon. member for Bothwell is the very last person I should have expected to hear say that those historic names were not worth preserving. He had himself written something about the history of this country, and he now seeks to obliterate it—that he should say that those Indians and voyageurs had done nothing and that their names should be swept away, is extraordinary. The member for Bothwell has remarked that succeeding waves of population in Europe and England have left their names and other traces behind them. Very true, but such waves of population have not as yet come to our North-West Territories. The names which I complain of are taken from people who have never been near the country, and who have no connection with its history; from barbarous races and countries in the north of Europe, which many of us never heard of before. I think it is very absurd to adopt these foreign names. And as to the hon. gentleman's complaint about our occupying the time of the House in this discussion, I think it has not been very improperly occupied in considering this matter. The hon. gentleman seems to think this a question of no importance, but I consider it one of very great importance.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. My sympathies at least go with the mover of the motion to an extent, that compels me to say that I would rather see the old names preserved. Good