

*Historic Sites and Monuments Act*

tal organization. The museums branch was withdrawn from the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, so we lack co-ordination between historic sites and the museums board. There is no co-ordination in Canada in respect of the establishment of historic sites and these two groups dealing with the preservation of historic areas in Canada.

We are now going to readjust this situation by making it possible for a representative of the National Museums Board to sit in on the deliberations of the Historic Sites and Museums Board. This is necessary and was in fact the situation which existed before the government began to play musical chairs with departmental organization by reorganization, as it has been called.

I notice that in the make-up of the Board there will be representation by the new Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, with at least one representative from each of the provinces—two from the central provinces, Quebec and Ontario. In any event there will be no representation from the Yukon or Northwest Territories. This is one of the sins of omission in this bill to which I referred. No amendment was introduced to this effect because I am sure the government would not have approved.

In that area of Canada north of the 60th parallel there exists some of the most significant and important parts of Canada, particularly from a historic and heritage point of view. It was in this area, for example, that early explorations took place during the search for a Northwest Passage. Because of this aspect of historic heritage in this 3,500,000 square mile area of northern Canada, the legislation might well have allowed for representation by the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Representatives of these two areas of Canada are vociferous in their demands for independence and consideration on the part of the government of Canada. I suppose we will require another housekeeping bill to deal with this situation.

There was another important omission so far as this legislation is concerned. I refer to closer co-ordination between the National Battlefields Commission and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. The National Battlefields Commission, which has operated for most of the present century, has responsibility for the battlefield of the Plains of Abraham. This is related to an early confrontation which brought about the settlement of the final status of Canadian sovereignty. It has responsibility for other battlefields in Canada, some of which can be related to the war of

1812, including Queenstown Heights where Canadians turned back invading United States forces. I do not know whether we could do so now, but we did back in 1812.

These battlefields are preserved by the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. It seems to me that it would be in the best interests of peace, order and good government if, in trying to bring about a rationalization or reorganization of the functions of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, national battlefields were brought under the aegis of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board and the functions of the National Battlefields Commission. This would not only add to efficiency, it would be conducive to national unity and result in a saving in respect of administrative expenditures. But I think that the bringing together of the two groups will have to take place in due course and we shall again go through the motions referred to as housekeeping under the present legislation.

• (5:30 p.m.)

I do not think we have emphasized too much the increasing importance of the preservation of our historic sites and monuments as symbols of Canadian progress on the road to confederation and national unity. There are many artifacts of Canadian history that are still available for preservation. Canada is fortunate in this respect because we are a comparatively young country and we still have the remains of many of these landmarks in Canada's progress toward nationhood that should be preserved. The whole movement toward the preservation of our historic sites received an impetus in the initial planning for our centennial.

It was contemplated that there would be major projects in every province that could be visited by the people of Canada and the thousands and, I suppose it is not extravagant to say, the millions who visited Canada two years ago during our centennial year and constituted the greatest boom in tourism that Canada or any other country has seen. Unfortunately, not too many of those historic sites were completed in time to be available for display purposes at that time. Just the other afternoon it was my privilege to attend a ceremony at lower Fort Garry in the province of Manitoba, celebrating the restoration to an almost perfect state of one of the old Hudson Bay forts that were identified with the early settlement of Red River which ultimately gave rise to the province of Manitoba. Then followed the opening of the west and the