

Central Canada; perhaps I should say central Canada was completely isolated from British Columbia.

The different routes of the colonists were such that they did not come together until the 1880's. Consequently, as that part of the country now known as the west was opened with the coming of the railway, it was settled by and large by people from Ontario, Quebec, the Maritimes, and later from Europe. They came via eastern Canada.

The tale of British Columbia of course is entirely different. The British Columbia area was first seen by the Russians, who traded with the coast Indians early in the eighteenth century. The Russians were followed by the Spaniards, and such great names as Juan de Fuca and Quadra appeared on maps of what are now known as coastal waters; they so appeared in the late 1770's. The first of the British to show up was Captain Cook who arrived there late in the eighteenth century, around 1786. He was followed by Captain Vancouver, who established the first settlement on the east coast of Vancouver Island in 1792. Then, in 1827, the Hudson's Bay Company, then known as the British Hudson's Bay Company, established Fort Langley, the first permanent settlement in the area. That took place in 1827. These small settlements on the west coast were nurtured almost entirely from Great Britain, so that such events as the Rebellion of 1835 in eastern Canada meant absolutely nothing to the people of Vancouver Island, in the Crown colony of Vancouver Island. Subsequent great events, such as the Durham report, were meaningless to people living on Vancouver Island and on the British Columbia mainland. The Canada Act had no bearing at all on the people then living in British Columbia.

At this particular time of the province's history one great man appeared on the scene, Sir James Douglas. He had joined the Hudson's Bay Company at the early age of 16, and by 1839 was chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company on the west coast. He was ordered to build a fort on Vancouver Island in 1843, he having explored it in 1842. Sir James Douglas landed on Vancouver Island, landing where the city of Victoria now stands, going ashore there. It is difficult to determine exactly where he came ashore; it is thought to be Clover Point, but there is some argument as to whether he landed closer to the inner harbour than Clover Point.

There is no plaque, so far as I have been able to determine, marking the spot where the first representative bearing our civilization set foot on Vancouver Island. Although instructed to build Fort Camosun, Sir James Douglas built a fort on the site in 1843 and called it Fort Victoria.

Victoria is filled with names which are totally unfamiliar to people in eastern Canada but well known on the west coast; there you hear names such as Blanshard, the first governor of the colony. Actually he came to Canada to be the governor of the colony centred on Vancouver Island; apparently he did not like it. He was the last person from outside Victoria who, according to our records, came there but did not like it. He left one year later and was succeeded by Sir James Douglas as governor and vice-admiral of Vancouver's Island.

Historic Sites

Sir James Douglas first came to notice in 1840. He was sent to Alaska, to settle the trading arrangements with the Russian-American company which had at that time leased the Alaska panhandle to the British. I am sure the hon. member for Skeena (Mrs. Campagnolo), the minister responsible for fitness and amateur sport, wishes that it were that simple now, that we could again lease the panhandle as they did in those days.

Sir James Douglas arrived shortly after the Oregon boundary settlement. The British government had deemed it wise to establish a Crown colony on Vancouver Island. When Sir James Douglas did this, he became firmly convinced that he would have to control immigration, and control the Americans as they came in, particularly during the gold rush days, so that what had happened in Oregon would not happen in British Columbia. The vast majority of people who came for the gold rush in 1858 were Americans. With the help of a small contingent of the Royal Engineers, a few ships of the Royal Navy, a handful of magistrates, and Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie, he preserved law and order and kept firm possession of the country. None of these names are marked by historic sites and monuments. I ask the parliamentary secretary to look upon this as a request that more attention be paid to that part of Canadian history that did not find its well springs in either Ontario, Quebec, or the maritimes.

● (2050)

It is of note that the only Father of Confederation buried west of the Great Lakes is buried in Ross Bay Cemetery in Victoria. There is no marker of significance to point out this fact. I hope that after this bill is passed, and we do not intend to present any difficulties with regard to the passing of it, the parliamentary secretary will take these matters as representations from my constituents and myself and realize that there is more to Canadian history than the story taught in eastern Canadian textbooks.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. Before recognizing the parliamentary secretary, I must inform the House that when he speaks he will automatically close the debate.

Mr. B. Keith Penner (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I rise only briefly to close this debate and to express to all members in the House who participated in the proceedings this afternoon my gratitude for what was a very stimulating and most interesting debate.

As hon. members noted during the course of today's debate, it is all too infrequently that the House provides us with the opportunity to remind ourselves about the historical content and the historical sources, some of them very rich indeed, that lie within our constituencies. Of course much of the debate this afternoon went well beyond the simple terms of the bill which, although it is important, does nothing more than add two members to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board in order to give representation to the Yukon and Northwest Territories.