

Louisburg was the first place in North America to have a fire-proof lighthouse. One was built there about 1735. I have ascertained that there was no hospital larger, better or more important in the whole of North America than there was at Louisburg about 1730. The trade of the town was so great that it excited the envy, animosity and fear of the more populous colonies of Great Britain, and pamphlet after pamphlet was written to the people in the Old Country who were engaged in the colonial trade, pointing out how the French were driving them out of the market for the fish of the North Atlantic, which in the middle of the eighteenth century was the only really important commodity in the trade with North America; and the controversy on that subject led to two wars.

Louisburg has another claim to attention from those who study the development of peoples. It was at Louisburg that the raw levies of New England, engaged in what seemed to be a madman's scheme, first met and fought against trained troops, the French regulars. They captured the town. That success gave the New Englanders and the other colonies that confidence in themselves which had such stupendous results when they took to arms in what proved ultimately to be the Revolution.

It is a matter of minor incident that Louisburg was the only American port that was ever touched at by East Indianmen going around South America. On the economic side there was at Louisburg the enormous success in the fisheries of which I spoke. It was the entrepôt where vessels from Quebec and the West Indies, and smuggling vessels from the New England colonies, carried on a trade. So solid was that trade, and so well balanced, that Louisburg, I think, was the only place on the continent of North America that never had to resort to paper money.

I had not intended to speak this afternoon, and I certainly do not intend to continue these desultory remarks, but I should like to ask the right honourable leader of the House if he would request the Government to take into consideration as promptly as possible the desirability of seeing to it that on the land that they have acquired on the site of Louisburg for historical purposes no further dilapidation takes place. Little by little are disappearing those vestiges which, if not equal to those at Quebec, are certainly very valuable, in our opinion, from the standpoint of historic merit. It is a great site of what in its time was a stupendous place in a military as well as in a commercial way, and in the develop-

ment of what is now Canada, and all that took place there was of equal credit to one side and the other.

Hon. H. S. BELAND: Honourable gentlemen, I may be permitted to add a few words of congratulation to my honourable friend from Shawinigan (Hon. Mr. Paradis) for having presented in so able a manner the case, as I would call it, of the old Citadel and the old walls of Quebec. His speech—which I think is his maiden speech in this House—has attracted, deservedly, the closest attention on the part of honourable members. Had the Government not already decided to appropriate a certain amount of money as provided for in the supplementary estimates that were laid on the table yesterday, I am certain that the brilliant speech of my honourable friend would have carried conviction to the Government that something must be done.

Some say that ours is a century of high civilization; others, less enthusiastic, and less ready to yield to the idea of modernizing the most venerable and ancient things, express the view that our age is rather an age of vandalism. It is likely that the truth lies between these two extremes and that in this instance, as in many others, the old motto finds its application—in medio stat virtus.

Quebec enjoys the unique distinction of being the oldest city on this continent. Within and without its walls, and in the walls themselves, can be found the vestiges of a century that is long gone. Quebec is the gateway of the inner part of the continent. It was so recognized by the hardy adventurers, Jacques Cartier and Champlain. It is to-day readily admitted to be so by those visitors from Europe who, having crossed the Atlantic and sailed up the St. Lawrence, behold suddenly, as they turn the Island of Orleans, the majestic beauty of the promontory of Quebec and its Citadel.

Whether or not we share these views, or are in sympathy with the customs, usages, systems or policies of three centuries ago, matters little. One thing is certain: the preservation, the conservation of these old Quebec walls, of this Citadel, can only imbue the soul of every Canadian with a deep sentiment of admiration for our ancestors. Artistic beauty and indomitable energy are written in letters of stone which the remorseless action of time will be indeed very slow to deface. It is now proposed to arouse again the attention of the powers that be in order that these historical beauties may be preserved, not only for us, but for those who will come after us. The exigencies of modern life, of tourism, of commercialism,