

The first civilized men who had penetrated to these regions, new so well known, were the enterprising and adventurous French who had come to this country before the days of chivalry had quite departed. They had had difficulties to contend with which could not now be estimated and had surmounted them all. Undaunted by wilds which seemed interminable, or by untamed savages—sometimes friendly but often hostile—they had penetrated to the interior of the continent; they had traced the Saskatchewan and the Missouri to their sources in the Rocky Mountains, and to their debouchment in seas until then unknown. Many of these explorers of a former day would live in history; their names were household words, and he would ask, where the names by which they had designated the scenes of their adventures and the places which, in many instances, had been consecrated by their blood, to be swept from the face of the land for which they had done so much, and replaced by others which had no connection whatever with the history of the country? Succeeding the French, or rather joining them, came the Scotch Highlanders, some of whom had come over from the neighboring Republic immediately after the war of Independence, leaving their all behind them rather than renounce their allegiance, while others of them were those, or the descendants of those who had left their native land on account of political troubles. Accompanied by the French voyageurs whom they found in the country, they crossed the Rocky Mountains and planted the British flag on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, and if British Columbia were to-day a part of the Dominion, it was due to the enterprise of those intrepid explorers, for it was by claiming the country on their discoveries that Great Britain was able, subsequently, to make good her right to that country in negotiations and treaties with the United States. The McKenzie, the Frazer, and a number of lesser rivers together with many a mountain lake, bore the names of these hardy explorers, but if this Vandalism in robbing a country of its history was to be permitted to go on, those names, like the old French and Indian ones, would be in time snuffed out and replaced by designations of a foreign and barbarous sound. He would run over a few of the new names to show the House with what strange sounds they must now become familiar: Lorfeden, Nordland, Linkoping, Upsula, Carlstad, Ostersund, Ingolf, Mounstrie, Varna, Donnocona, Buckstone, Raith, Hecla, and a host of others of equally foreign tone. Whatever might be the merit of these names, and some of them were those of obscure islands in icy seas, or of villages in the north of Europe with a population of 1,500 or so, they certainly had no connection whatever with the history of this country. Neither Swedes nor Russians had any claim to be commemorated in these regions. They were, however, in keeping with the spirit of Vandalism which seemed to have led to the blotting out of the old names for these new ones, for they had been taken, at least in part, from the early homes of the Goth and the Vandal. Our neighbors across the lines, although they sometimes adopted strange names, were careful, as a general rule, to preserve the historic ones, whether English, French, Spanish or Indian, or even Dutch. This was really an important matter, and he (Mr. Dawson) trusted that, in future, all names to be given to places should be submitted to the Government for approval before being finally adopted, and that every selection of a name made should be, as nearly as possible, that by which the locality was already known. It was over two hundred years since the first civilized men had reached the territories of the North-West, and yet the surveyors and engineers of the Pacific Railway treated these regions as a *terra incognita*, as a land which they had themselves discovered, and to which they were entitled to give names. Such impertinence on the part of mere employees in the public service should be at once and forever put a stop to.

Mr. GOURSOL. I rise to second the motion just made by the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Dawson). I hope that he will thereby succeed in obtaining for himself and the country, relief from an abuse which has existed so long, and which has been so detrimental to the history of the country. The hon. member for Algoma has, by this motion, rendered a great service to his country. It is a fact that people attempting to travel by the old map of the country would never find their way to the shores of the Pacific. Everywhere have the names been altered; they have been disfigured, mutilated and rendered incomprehensible; names, which were an honor to the country, have been omitted or withdrawn, and in their place have been substituted names unknown to everybody. As an instance, this is how a few names have been translated: "L'anse Bérard," which is now the terminus of the Pacific Railway, has become Burrard Inlet; the "Lac de la Pluie," formerly called "Lac la Rinde," is now "Rainy Lake;" lake "Queue d'Oiseau" has become in English "Birdtail," which has been improved into "Bertle." It is not in such a manner, Mr. Speaker, that the historical souvenirs of the country should be preserved, especially when, as the hon. member for Algoma has pointed out, our American neighbors are doing all they can to trace back all such old historical names, instead of wiping them out. To show how carefully they preserve them, I will give an example. There was a place called "Pendant d'Oreille." The term popularly in vogue is "Pan d'Oreille." Headless of orthography, the Americans have placed it on their map as "Pan d'Oreille." The hon. member for Algoma rightly said that the country had been discovered by the French, and those who have read our history from the date of the conquest to the year 1870, would be surprised and astonished were they now able to find a single old name therein. What has become of the names of the old forts? It would have been easy to preserve names such as Iberville, Ste. Anne, St. Germain, Bourbon and Maurepas; all those names are to be found in history, but they have been mutilated, they have been changed; our employees have therein imitated a nation so great by its intelligence that I need hardly name it, the French nation, which has demolished the monuments whereon were inscribed the names of its victories and glories; they have cast these names aside in order to put others in their place. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that this will not happen in our own country; I hope it will not be left to our engineers to name and designate the various localities. Let them make out the plans, but let the Government be the sole judge of the names to be given. Let the Government take the old maps and it will find names worthy of being given to every place; it will bear in mind the names of those who have discovered the country, of those who have shed their blood in fighting against savage tribes, and it will remember that the Scotch, with the French, conquered the country, and so powerfully contributed to civilize it. I trust, therefore, that the Government will not leave to the engineers the right of taking the names of their families, relations or friends, to designate the different places in the west; and if these engineers are ignorant of the history of the country, the Government will, perhaps, supply them with maps which will give them the necessary information.

Mr. BLAKE said he was glad the hon. member for Algoma had brought up this matter. He sympathized a good deal with the views of the hon. member, and hoped that the attention of the Government would not be confined to the names on the Pacific Railway only, but would be extended to that North-West line which was now known as "The Dawson Route."

Mr. LANGEVIN. I must say that some three or four years ago, the names of the proposed stations on the Canadian Pacific Railway as contained in the reports laid