

total cost of \$35,000,000, every dollar of which in that happy period possessed about ten times the purchasing power of a dollar of to-day.

This fortress, obsolete and useless for military purposes, but a priceless heirloom for future generations, has come to us, a royal gift, from the British authorities. To-day this colossal work, the construction of which did not cost Canada a single cent, this incomparable gem of our history, is threatened with destruction. Its dilapidated condition arouses our pity, and we are justified in asking the Government to take adequate measures before it is too late. In justice I must add that on divers occasions the Dominion Government has shown an interest. Its solicitude, however, has not yet produced sufficient results.

It is true that an appropriation of \$50,000 is being provided for by the Department of National Defence in the supplementary estimates tabled in the House of Commons last night; and for this generous contribution I wish to thank the Government. This money will serve to take care of urgent repairs and help in restoring a wall, at St. John's Gate, which has become a public danger. But it is far from being sufficient for the purpose of complete restoration of the decaying fortifications. I am pleased, however, inasmuch as this appropriation sanctions the principle.

The municipality of Quebec is wholly unable to undertake the restoration of this, our national heirloom. The property is still under control of the Department of National Defence; but so great have been the changes in the arts of war that repairs to both the Citadel and the walls of the city cannot to-day be justified as a provision for the defence of the nation. One of our commissions of conservation might with more propriety be charged with this responsibility. The National Battlefields Commission has already, in fact, been suggested. But, according to the statute of 1908, creating it, the main object of that special Commission was to acquire by expropriation or otherwise the lands upon which the great battles of our history were fought, and to convert them into national parks to commemorate those historic events. Another Commission, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, fortunately, has been in existence since 1919. It is composed of distinguished men, conversant with our history and well qualified to appreciate the inspirational value of these ancient walls. If empowered to do so, it could no doubt be relied upon to make a competent examination of the

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fortress, report upon its present condition, and advise the best ways and means for its preservation.

Nearly a century has elapsed since the completion of the Citadel. Could Canada better celebrate that century than by providing, through legislation, for the preservation of these precious relics of the two civilizations out of which our nation has sprung? Mute testimonial of the toil of our ancestors, both English and French, these storied walls command the respect and veneration of every honourable gentleman in this Chamber. They recall the beginning and the early vicissitudes of that feeble band of our ancestors, in the very cradle of our nation, and the blood that was shed in fulfilment of the designs of Providence in the New World. They recall the daring expedition of Jacques Cartier, who passed the winter of 1534-35 near-by, in the Indian village of Stadacona, and the crusades and martyrdom of our missionaries, who planted the Cross, from which have descended to us the blessings of a Christian civilization. They recall, too, the great Champlain, sailor, soldier and ruler, who gave stability and permanence to all that had gone before. These walls, if preserved in all their towering impressiveness above the great river, will remind future generations of the sacredness of the pact entered into between the vanquishers and the vanquished, the very foundation of our Confederation.

All these recollections are adorned with names that should be kept shining brightly in our history. Among those not already mentioned are Roberval, Laval, Talon, Callières, Phipps, Montcalm and Wolfe, Bougainville and Bourlamaque, Amherst, Lévis and Murray, Carleton, Arnold and Montgomery, Haldimand, Dorchester, Allsopp and many others.

I have aimed only to outline the wealth of historic background exemplified and commemorated by these old battlements. If documentary proof were asked of the priceless value of that wealth, I would refer you to numerous records in our national archives, and to countless facts set forth by our historians.

May I mention one history in particular? It is entitled, "Quebec under Two Flags," edited in 1903 by two eminent compatriots, A. G. Doughty and N. E. Dionne, and a chapter of it is devoted to these fortifications. It refers to a demand on the part of certain industrial interests of that time to demolish a portion of these walls. Time has now commenced to do what public sentiment of that time refused to permit. May I quote a few words from these gentlemen, which ring as true now as then?