

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

QUEBEC CITADEL AND FORTIFICATION WALLS

INQUIRY AND DISCUSSION

Hon. P. J. PARADIS rose in accordance with the following notice:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to the dilapidated state of one of the Government properties at Quebec, namely the Citadel and the Fortification Walls that surround it; and will enquire of the Government what measures they propose to take to save from ruin and destruction this great national historic site and monument.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, every member of this Chamber will no doubt recollect that their Excellencies the Governor General and Viscountess Willingdon, shortly after their arrival in Canada, suggested the revival of an old custom by which the representatives of His Majesty had a "pied-a-terre" in the Citadel of Quebec. The Government endorsed this happy and patriotic suggestion, and recently completed restoration of a portion of the viceregal living quarters. Suitable facilities have been provided, so that Their Excellencies from now on will be able to sojourn for appreciable lengths of time in our ancient Capital. The citizens of the city of Quebec are, as a result, deeply appreciative both of the sentiment expressed and of the Government's co-operation; and they are acquiring new pride in the charm and picturesque quality of the Citadel, which crowns the eastern end of the Plains of Abraham and commands an inspiring view of the broad estuary of the St. Lawrence. New interest and appreciation are felt by citizens of other parts of Canada as often as they approach Quebec from across the seas and see our flag floating above these majestic battlements. Travellers from many lands, who are flocking to us in annually increasing numbers, are thrilled too by the same sight. The Citadel justly may be regarded as the Mecca of our greatest tourist trade.

Scattered over this Dominion were forts and other works that marked various military occupations and the progress of settlement. The ruins of many of those old places, some of which are now surrounded by thriving cities, are being restored and preserved in response to most commendable local sentiment. Where now stand the walls and turrets of Canada's only fortified city was played the drama of war that decided the future of our whole country. So we all may congratulate ourselves that our ancient fortress still stands, not a ruin but nearly complete in every wall,

portal and embrasure. But close upon the completion of the restoration of the Governor General's quarters came the discovery that the walls of the fortress are falling into decay. As those walls support and form an integral part of the superstructure, including the restored portions, the whole will soon be beyond repair unless the Government has repairs made at an early date.

The earliest portion of the fortress was erected in 1645. The major portion of the outer walls was built, roughly speaking, one hundred years ago. I will not attempt to relate to you in detail the history of the early fortifications of Quebec. Suffice it to say, the first were erected in 1608, when Champlain surrounded his "habitation" close to the river bank with a rough protection known as a stockade. Montmagny, a little later, built a stone fort on the site of the present Chateau Frontenac, in order to protect the band of settlers from attack by the Indians. When he arrived in Quebec, Count Frontenac, Lieutenant-General of the French King's armies, saw that Montmagny's fortification was not strong enough to protect more than its immediate surroundings, and he stressed to his superiors the importance of immediately erecting fortifications powerful enough to command the river. But the Royal Departments in Paris were so slow to act that the inhabitants of Quebec started the work themselves. The King, however, was quick to realize the strategic importance of the site of this original fort. He saw clearly that the St. Lawrence river provided the only feasible means of access to New France, and he ordered the preparation of plans for an extensive and well-nigh impregnable fortress. These plans were faithfully carried out by Frontenac, de Lévis, de Champigny, le Vasseur de Néré, the Marquis of Beauharnois, Nicholas Bellin, Franquet, the Marquis de Vaudreuil and Pontleroy.

The British authorities, after the conquest, gave special care to strengthening this keystone fortress. Several works of a more or less temporary nature were built, and finally there was started a system of fortifications, to include both Citadel and walls, which was to become the strongest and most important in all America. This enterprise was carried out by such eminent men as Lord Townshend, Governor Haldimand, Major Holland, Engineer Hunter, and particularly Captain Twiss, then commanding officer of the military engineers in Canada, whose plans were afterwards executed by Lieutenant-Colonel Durnford and Colonel Mann. Under these men the fortress took its present form. It was begun in 1823 and completed in 1833, at a