

Historic Sites

of his work. We are coming very close to the anniversary of that period of our history where James Cook made extraordinarily accurate charts of the west coast of Canada. I think it is time we commemorated those activities with more recognition than has been accorded to them.

When I visited Quebec City about two months ago I was surprised to learn that this same Captain Cook had a great deal to do with the plotting and drawing of the charts of the St. Lawrence River in 1758-59 prior to his explorations on the west coast. I have suggested to the Postmaster General (Mr. Blais) that he should consider that Captain James Cook be commemorated at the appropriate time in 1978 with either a commemorative stamp or a series of stamps which would do what we have been talking about in this bill, that is, commemorate what we owe to those who opened up the country for us.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) mentioned the need for remembering the smaller people, those who have made contributions but whose names do not appear in the Encyclopedia Britannica. Of course, Captain Cook's name appears there, but we need to be reminded more often than we are at the moment of the dates when all of those who came before us discovered and plotted our lands. I make a plea again to the Postmaster General, which I hope will be picked up and brought to his attention—as he is not in the House today—that Captain Cook be commemorated with an issue at the appropriate time in 1978 and that a series of commemorative ceremonies be organized on the west coast to mark the historic work he did there.

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, it would be repetitious to go over, again, the importance today of historic sites to Canadians. I ask the House to be tolerant if I should become a little local in my remarks. Any country which has pride in itself, any group of citizens who has pride in its community and its history should use this pride as the cornerstone of development. History reveals the errors of the past, and as we plan the future it is hoped that we may learn from these errors and go forward with greater confidence in our ability to cope.

In comparison with other countries, Canada has been remiss in exploiting her historic sites. It must be admitted, of course, that we do not have the history of Athens, Rome, Paris or London. But we have our own history. It is a brilliant history, something of which we should, and must, be proud. Our citizens spend billions of dollars abroad absorbing the history of other countries, yet virtually nothing has been done to create attractions which might keep them at home or which bring people from other countries to Canada as tourists.

On the occasion of the Queen's silver jubilee, presently being celebrated in London, it is estimated that two million tourists are in the city enjoying its history. Even if we discount the historical appeal of this bill, we should perhaps examine it for its potential to keep Canadian money at home and attract foreign money to our shores.

[Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich).]

Not too long ago I was privileged to visit the New England states. I was invited out to dinner, to the house which had formerly been the home of that famous author, John Greenleaf Whittier. That home is an historic site, preserved in all its historic grandeur and recapturing the flavour and life of the era in which the author lived. We do little of that sort of thing.

● (1200)

I appeal to the government to be aware of our significant historic sites and to preserve as an historic site the home Mr. Van Horne built and lived in, in my constituency. Failure to preserve the house as an historic site would cast no credit on the federal government, or on the government of New Brunswick. The site, together with all its artifacts, was at one time available for \$100,000, but neither the Historic Sites and Monuments Board nor the provincial government of New Brunswick saw fit to buy the island on which Mr. Van Horne had lived and preserve it as an historic site. The house stands in a community which depends on tourist traffic for its living in the summer. Actually, tourism is the underpinning of the area's economy all year. The local chamber of commerce, the heritage trust, interested people in St. Andrews, the honorable member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather) and I, among others, have pleaded with governments to act immediately. All these pleas have met with procrastination.

If we do not act quickly, the site may be lost to the public. We must help the government of New Brunswick which has done its best within reasonable limits to acquire the assets of that estate, an estate of significant historical importance in the development of this country. Mr. Van Horne's first home in Montreal was destroyed to make room for development. Unless we act promptly, Mr. Van Horne's other home in my constituency may not be available to the public as an historic site. I suggest that federal and provincial authorities must co-operate to secure this site for the public.

These sites are valuable as historical records because we have reason to be proud of our history. If economic hard times lie ahead and money becomes scarce, surely it makes sense for the government to take over these premises. I could point to many significant historic sites in Carleton-Charlotte, a constituency settled relatively early in Canadian history. I expect many hon. members know of the articles Dr. George Frederick Clarke on matters of history and on historic objects he has collected over the years. But for his writings Canadians would be unaware of many matters of historical significance. Dr. Clarke has written about at least a dozen sites or places in Carleton-Charlotte which could be classified as historic sites.

Many of the sites he mentioned ought to be taken over. They would be useful for fostering the pride of our citizens and attracting visitors. I urge the government to be cognizant of places of historic interest in this country, that is, of historic sites and of the contributions of the people in our history, people who come from the west, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and all other parts of the country. We are spending millions of dollars on the development of Beauséjour. I applaud the expenditure. Let us not lose sight of the impor-