

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

have referred, this five acre area has not been desecrated or swallowed up by expansion or modern developments. I cannot conceive of this situation continuing very much longer unless speedy action is taken to recognize the significance of this as an historical site, and suggest that consideration be given to its development by the national authority, by the provincial authority and by the officials of the city of Vancouver itself.

I have been advised by that most fabulous man, Major J. S. Matthews, V.D., the Vancouver city archivist, that this matter has been brought to the attention of the federal department, and he feels convinced that if speedy action is taken by the authorities of the city, the province and the federal government in recognizing this area as an historic site, the citizens of Vancouver will be very interested and helpful in developing that five acre block by the reconstruction of the site as it existed in the years 1869 and 1886.

It is very fortunate that there are still in existence, and available, photographs of that area as it was in those years. I have in my hand at the moment a photograph which depicts the exact situation as it was in the years I have mentioned, so it would be quite possible to create an exact replica of the area. I am particularly interested in that site as it existed in 1886, when the first hotel on the Pacific coast was built, as well as the first post office and first customs office, as shown in this picture which I have in my hand.

The reason I am taking up the time of the committee is to bring this particular matter to the attention of the minister and to ask for early and speedy consideration of the acquisition and maintenance of this most historic site in western Canada in the north-east corner of my own constituency. I can assure the minister of the need for early action. I can also assure him that if he can give us any indication of interest in and support of this site by this branch of his department, the citizens of Vancouver in general and the citizens of the Vancouver East federal riding in particular will be glad to cooperate in any way they possibly can. I assure the minister that money will be forthcoming to establish a replica in that five acre area, which is now being used as a pasture and playground, of what was the situation in 1869 and 1886. I hope the minister can give me some assurance of his interest in this matter, and that speedy consideration will be given to the request of my constituents with respect to this historic site in the third largest city of Canada.

**Mr. Mandziuk:** Mr. Chairman, this is my first opportunity to congratulate the Minister

[Mr. Winch.]

of Northern Affairs and National Resources. The pleasure is all the deeper owing to the fact that this is my neighbouring constituency to the south.

I was very pleased to hear the remarks of the hon. member for Vancouver East, because I am on the same beam. I agree with everything he has said. Of course we rarely agree on other matters, but I have an historical site in the constituency of Marquette. We all know that all we have left is something to remind us of how our country was explored, how the great west was opened up to the fur trade and following that to agriculture. The west is dotted with historical sites. At some of them battles were fought with the natives. Other sites are the places where the fur trade and commerce played a great part in the development of that country.

It is pathetic, Mr. Chairman, to go in my constituency to a site which 130 years ago was the centre of the western fur trade—that was long before the settlers came—and find that all that can be seen there are sunken graves, a few stone markers, rotted crosses to mark the old cemetery where the whites and the natives were buried, and so on. You can still see very slight traces of the stone foundations and the broken up bake ovens; the lines of the stockade are still traceable.

The site I am referring to is old Fort Ellice, about which much has been written in the history of Manitoba. One hundred and thirty years ago—this was after the two rival fur trading companies had amalgamated—a fort was built five miles below the mouth of the Qu'Appelle river on the steep banks of the Assiniboine river. It was a stopping point on the cart trail between Winnipeg and Edmonton. The land belonged to the Assiniboine Indians. The purpose of the fort was to catch the Indian fur trappers and prevent them from going south to trade with the United States fur traders. Since it was on the Assiniboine, it was also a waterway from Winnipeg to the fort. At this fort 50 years ago there were many wagon trails. Trails of the Red river carts converged in various directions from Fort Ellice and to Fort Ellice, as do rail lines coming into Winnipeg. All that is left of that fort, Mr. Chairman, are just very few traces of what was once a great fur trading post.

In 1930 the municipality, with assistance from local municipalities, erected a beautiful cairn to mark the spot. It stands a few feet outside marks where the palisade once stood. The village of St. Lazare, which I am proud to say is inhabited mainly by French Canadians, is enterprising enough to have started rebuilding this fort by its own efforts. In due course I will tell the committee why. Last