

Supply—Northern Affairs

of present knowledge are believed to be unique in all of North American log construction. This example of this form of construction displays a high degree of craftsmanship.

Banwell house stands on the east side of Banwell road, north of No. 2 highway and has been identified as the Henry Banwell house.

The minister has promised to look into the representations made to have this set aside as a historic monument. I would add to my written and oral representations the following additional argument. Essex county is one of the most historic counties in the province of Ontario. It has a French Canadian population that goes back several centuries. The house in question is closely allied to the culture of Canadians of French descent in that section of the country and is of interest, as well, to others of various national origins. The house would be a valuable site in itself, but its preservation would also be a connecting link with a phase of the development of the culture of one of the two predominant ethnic groups in Canada. I believe the Banwell house is one that deserves to be preserved. It is part of the pattern that has been built up in our county of developing an appreciation of historical events through historical monuments. I should like to think that the minister would find a way to support this proposal. I believe that, as a result of representations which I was able to make, the minister has made some arrangement for officials of his to contact members of the Essex county historical society. I would be grateful to know what progress has been made since these representations were first put forward, as I am sure would the people in Essex county.

Mr. Dinsdale: I can assure the hon. member that particular proposal will be presented to the historic sites and monuments board when that board meets in May. I am sure that body of distinguished historians will give to the national historic aspects of this particular house the same careful consideration it gave to the Grand Palace theatre in Dawson city. While I am on my feet—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I ask the minister if it is a fact that someone from his department has already been in contact with the Essex county historical society?

Mr. Dinsdale: Yes, we have been in touch with the local historical society.

Yesterday, the hon. member for Brantford made some worthwhile recommendations. Perhaps I could now reply to the points he raised, of which I think there were three. The Bell home has long been recognized as a significant historic place. I can assure him

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

that the historic sites branch have taken an active interest in the preservation of this home. They have been in touch, for example, with the local historical society and also with the Bell Telephone Company which naturally would have an interest in the preservation of this home. I am happy to assure the hon. member that the township in which the home is located has been assured of substantial support for the removal project when this becomes necessary. This support will be forthcoming from the Charles Fleetford Sise chapter, telephone pioneers of America. It is one of the functions of the historic sites branch to encourage local participation in the preservation of our historic sites. Not every historic site is of national significance. We feel that it is our responsibility to have local groups active in historic preservation, and to get the provinces active in this important function. In this particular instance there has been a good response from the local people.

The chapel of the Mohawk has also been very carefully looked into by the branch and the policy laid down reference to the preservation of all religious historic sites would apply in this case. We encourage the denominational bodies concerned to be active in the preservation of these old churches. In this case we are hoping for an encouraging response from the denomination under whose auspices the old Mohawk church has functioned.

Chiefswood, the birthplace of the Pauline Johnson, the daughter of the Mohawk chief, also has been under consideration by the historic sites branch. As a matter of fact, this matter has been looked at by the historic sites and monuments board and in 1961 it was decided that this was not one of those historic sites that come under the description of a national historic site. Again, there are other ways of attacking this problem, such as the creation of local interest and support. I am sure that the hon. member will be glad to know that there has been some commemoration of Pauline Johnson. A plaque has been established by the provincial historic sites people and also a stamp was issued by the Post Office Department in order to commemorate Pauline Johnson.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall vote 648 carry?

Mr. Carter: I wish to ask just one question and it will take not more than a minute. I wish to ask the minister whether any consideration has been given to making Sentinel hill in Newfoundland an historic site. Sentinel hill overlooks the town of Placentia which at one time was the capital of Newfoundland at a time when our province was under the control of the French. On Sentinel hill was the fortification which protected the