

Historic Sites

terrific development potential because of the range of heritage resources included in the area. Notwithstanding the fact that they are numerous and diverse, Mr. Speaker, they are still complementary. There are possibilities for effectively utilizing heritage resources as the basis for development of some innovative tourism and recreational activities.

It has been pointed out to all levels of government that there is a cultural and educational value in the development of this area. This complex has been recognized by educational authorities as an area of considerable value, and more extensive use of the parks, sites and institutions in the area by school groups, historians and others interested in the history of this country would be certain if heritage development were undertaken.

One final point in the rationale for the development of this particular area, Mr. Speaker. I know I have the support of my colleague for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), and for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon). They always support these worth while projects.

Mr. Beatty: And the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Yes. I am sorry the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling) is not here, because he has always been a great advocate of the development of the tourist industry. Here is another area where there is potential for tourism unlimited. However, one of the problems in this particular area has been the fact that it is relatively inaccessible. Indeed, it was only last fall that we were able to induce the hon. member for Skeena (Mrs. Campagnolo) to visit the Beardy's reserve in her capacity as parliamentary secretary. She will be able to tell the House in the course of her participation in this debate about some of the difficult roads she had to navigate, unless she came in by DND helicopter.

Mrs. Campagnolo: The roads there are a lot better than they are in my part of the country.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Then the minister has a full appreciation of some of the difficulties of accessibility. She points out that the difficulties are similar to the difficult roads in her constituency.

Mr. McGrath: She has a difficult road anyway.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: When the minister was a parliamentary secretary she went there to attend an important event on the Beardy's reserve. She enjoyed herself and we enjoyed having her there. I welcome her back to that part of my constituency. She certainly impressed those she met and spoke to on the occasion of that special event.

Mr. Symes: Don't be so patronizing.

● (1630)

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I speak the truth. Everyone who has met the minister was very impressed. The fact is that she made a

[Mr. Hnatyshyn.]

very fine impression. I do not think it is being patronizing to say so; it is being factual.

To get back to the point I wanted to make on the representation I am making to the parliamentary secretary, let me say that I believe there is a potential for tourism in the area. Accessibility to it has been difficult due to the relatively underdeveloped state of the resources in the area, the extremely poor state of the roads and facilities there and the almost total lack of publicity for the historic sites in the area. In spite of this, I want to bring to Your Honour's attention the fact that about 25,000 tourists made the effort required to visit the area in 1974. That is a substantial number. Without a development program to rectify the situation, the number of tourists in the area is certain to increase in a substantial manner.

The tourist activity is an important one, but so is the educational aspect of visiting the area. Therefore, I want to commend to the parliamentary secretary the report that I referred to and the representations that have been made by the citizens interested in the area regarding meaningful initiatives being taken now or in the near future with respect to the development of the area which is now referred to as the Saskatchewan river heritage complex.

I would like to bring my remarks to a conclusion by listing briefly some of the important heritage resources we have in my constituency. First, I would like to refer to the historic site at Batoche, now known as the Batoche national historic site, and the Duck Lake provincial historic park to which I referred earlier in my remarks. In the town of Duck Lake itself is to be found the Duck Lake museum, a marvellous place with relics and mementos from the north-west rebellion. The museum was initiated by a grand old man from Duck Lake, Mr. Fred Anderson who, through his own personal dedication and hard work, started this project which has now been taken up by the people in the Duck Lake area and developed into a first-rate museum. However, it needs assistance, and I made representations in that connection to the museums branch of the Department of Secretary of State. We hope that some assistance will be granted for the maintenance of that wonderful museum.

There is also the Fort Carlton historic park. History springs out of these names. When I refer to them, Mr. Speaker, I know you will recall part of the important history of the west and of Canada. There is the Rosthern cultural museum located in that wonderful centre in my constituency. There is the Fish Creek national historic site, which includes Middleton camp and the Fish Creek battlefield. I travelled through those areas this past summer. They are incredible places where one can still pick up shell remnants and different parts of equipment of the Middleton troops which engaged in battle. One can find arrowheads and other interesting mementos of that time. Of course, we all realize that one cannot remove these particular items from the national historic site, but the fact is they are still lying on the ground; they are still there as part of the living history. Then there is Gabriel's crossing in remembrance of Gabriel Dumont; there is the Batoche river crossing, and the South Branch House of the Hudson's Bay Company. I have already referred to the leading Canadian grain grower, Seager