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Report of the Annual Meeting

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada

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THE HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS BOARD OF CANADA¹

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A GLANCE through the Annual Reports of the Canadian Historical Association will reveal that in their presidential papers former presidents have as a rule addressed themselves to topics which embodied the results of research in fields in which they were interested, or considered technical problems of the historian, or involved philosophical or semi-philosophical reflection on history or aspects of it. My subject tonight, I fear, is of a different order. It is necessarily factual and narrative and, with the aid of lantern slides, visual in character. It neither plumbs the depths of research nor soars to philosophical heights. Perhaps, therefore, its selection deserves a word of explanation.

The immediate reason for the choice of subject is the attention which the Massey Commission directed to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. As was its duty, it examined the work and organization of the Board and made various suggestions for their improvement. Among these was a recommendation that the Canadian Historical Association should have direct representation on the Board, a proposal which the Board itself considered unwise and to which the Government did not accede. This aroused, or deepened, a critical spirit towards the Board among some members of the Association, and this has caused a general discussion of the relationship of the two bodies to be arranged for the concluding meeting of the Association on Saturday morning at 10.30 o'clock. It seemed to me that, as I happened to be a member of the Board as well as President this year of the Association, a useful purpose would be served if I should try to lay a foundation for the proposed discussion by devoting this paper to a survey of the Board and its work. The paper is meant to be informative and objective. With Saturday morning in mind it may, perhaps, present some analogy to the calm which is said to precede the storm.

However, though this topic may have an *ad hoc* justification for members of the Canadian Historical Association, it seems to me that it is appropriate on the much wider and deeper basis of the common citizenship of all those here present. In a democracy the preservation and marking of historic sites and structures and the commemoration of significant people and events is, or should be, a matter of concern and pride to all citizens. As citizens, also, everyone has a right to be informed regarding the organization and conduct of a public body such as the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. They have a right to criticize, to make suggestions, and to share in the ultimate control over it. From this standpoint of a common citizenship I hope that the material which follows will be of interest, not only to historians, but also to members of the Canadian Political Science Association and the general public here tonight.

¹ When delivered before the Association this paper was illustrated by the projection of some 150 illustrations. The cost of reproducing the illustrations has proven to be prohibitive. The proper names which are capitalized in this paper, indicate the titles of slides which were shown.

In one of his great periods Joseph Howe declared that "A wise nation preserves its records . . . gathers up its muniments . . . decorates the tombs of its illustrious dead . . . repairs its great public structures and fosters national pride and love of country by perpetual reference to the sacrifices and glories of the past". In Canada, as in other countries, this great work has been no monopoly of any organ of government, and it is to be hoped that it will never become so. Individuals, families, fraternal societies, Canadian Clubs, municipalities, churches, Provincial and Dominion Governments themselves in occasional specific instances, have all long participated in it. Many of our finest monuments date from this earlier time of wholly spontaneous action before any national governmental body had been appointed for systematic operation in this field. Some of these earlier monuments will be familiar to most members of this audience.²

Members of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board would be the last to minimize achievements such as these of an earlier period or those, not its own, of a later time. However, I think it may be said that the creation of the Board in 1919 did constitute something of a landmark. For the first time in Canada there was now in existence an official body designed for continuous study and action in this field on a national scale and limited only by the funds which the federal government might make available for its work. It was one of many signs that as the twentieth century advanced Canada was maturing into nationhood.

Usually Governments are impelled to action by public pressure of some kind, and the creation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board was no exception to this rule. The Canadian people had been growingly conscious of their splendid past and during the dozen years between the Quebec Tercentenary of 1908 and the creation of the Board representations had multiplied to the Dominion Government to support, or itself to carry out, action to preserve and suitably mark various features of our historic heritage.

Probably the most influential of all these representations had come from a body called the Historic Landmarks Association of Canada. Created on May 15th, 1907, by Section II of The Royal Society of Canada, its immediate object was to aid in the preparations for the Quebec Tercentenary, but beyond that its general purpose was, as its title indicates, the preservation and marking of historic land-

² Examples are: the Memorial Tower in Halifax, dedicated in 1912 by the Duke of Connaught and commemorating the first Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia, which was also the first Parliament in Canada; the monument to Champlain, "the father of Canada", on Dufferin Terrace in Quebec City which he founded, and there also the statue of Frontenac showing the "Fighting Governor" pointing to a cannon as the fitting mouthpiece which would deliver his reply to Phipps' summons to surrender; in Brantford, Ontario, the monument to Chief Joseph Brant, erected in 1886 and beautifully sculptured by Percy Wood; at Queenston Heights, towering over the gorge of the Niagara River, the magnificent memorial to Sir Isaac Brock which, erected in 1824, blown up by anti-British vandals in 1840, and restored as it now stands in 1853, challenges comparison with Nelson's famous column in Trafalgar Square; less pretentious but also reminiscent of the War of 1812 the rather beautiful monument to the Canadian heroine, Laura Secord; and finally, in Western Canada, the Treaty Memorial Monument at Fort Qu'Appelle, commemorating the first treaty between the Indians of the North West Territories and the "Great White Mother", Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

marks throughout Canada. It began to publish Annual Reports in 1915. It also undertook the completion of a Classified List of historic sites which had already been marked and it worked energetically for the marking of many which had been neglected. At its sixteenth and final meeting on May 18, 1922, its President, the late Lawrence J. Burpee, justly claimed that:

The Historic Landmarks Association has to its credit a number of years of faithful and useful work. It has labored quietly but persistently for the promotion of a public sentiment that would not permit the historic landmarks of Canada to remain neglected and forgotten. It may also fairly claim at least some of the credit for the establishment of the Quebec Battlefields Commission, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, and the new Quebec Historic Monuments Commission. In other words the public sentiment aroused by this association for the preservation and marking of historic sites made the creation of these organizations possible.

The Historic Landmarks Association of Canada has a special interest for many in this audience because at its sixteenth annual meeting it transformed itself into the Canadian Historical Association. This change of name meant a broadening of interests but it did not mean that the original purpose was forgotten, for one of the three objects stated in the constitution of the new Association was "To promote the preservation of historic sites and buildings, documents, relics and other significant heirlooms of the past". For some years a special Committee on Historic Landmarks lived on side by side with the Council of the Association and from then till now every Annual Report has contained material on the marking and preservation of historic sites and the commemoration of historic events and persons. One may say, I think, that in virtue of its ancestry and its constitution the Canadian Historical Association has an innate and natural interest in the Historic Sites and Monuments Board and its work.

How, then, was the Board created, who have served on it, what has been the nature of its organization, and what has it achieved? On Saturday morning, no doubt, its shortcomings, or alleged shortcomings, will be fully dealt with. For tonight I stay on the safer ground of factual description.

Insofar as any individual may be singled out as the physician attendant upon the birth of the Board that person is MR. J. B. HARKIN, who is still living in pleasant retirement in Ottawa. He had been a member of the Historic Landmarks Association and of its Standing Committee on Historic Landmarks. He was also in 1919 Commissioner of the Dominion Parks Board in the Department of the Interior. On March 1, 1919, he wrote a departmental memorandum which reads in part as follows:

I beg to say that the question of preserving the historical sites of Canada has been brought to the attention of the Department on many occasions since the creation of this Branch in 1911.

Due to strong representations from the Maritime Provinces, old Fort Howe at Saint John, New Brunswick, and Fort Anne at Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, were in 1914 and 1917 respectively established Dominion Parks with the end in view of preserving these historical sites.

This Branch also took steps to have reserved in the Department's records the site of Fort Pelly in Manitoba and the burial ground of the men who fell

at Fish Creek, Saskatchewan, in the Riel Rebellion with the intention of sometime establishing them as historical parks or monuments.

A scheme to preserve the other sites of historical interest was under consideration by this Branch when the war postponed any further action along this line.

It seems to me a matter of very great importance from a national standpoint that all the available historical sites of the Dominion should be preserved at the earliest possible moment, since from reports it would seem that each year the condition of many of the old historical buildings and relics is getting worse and if they are allowed to continue to decay their value as historic relics will continue to depreciate.

In my opinion not every so-called historic site should be protected by the Federal Government as there will doubtless be claims advanced for the protection of sites which are only locally interesting from an historical standpoint.

To overcome the difficulty of determining which sites are truly of Dominion wide concern, I would suggest that an honorary board or committee be appointed, composed of men from all parts of the country who are authorities on Canadian history, to advise the Department in the matter of preserving those sites which preeminently possess Dominion wide interest.

It should not be necessary for this committee of, say, five members and two members of the Service in Ottawa, to meet more than once a year and if the Government were to pay their travelling expenses only the money should be saved many times over by having the appropriation for the preserving of the sites spent to the best advantage.

In this memorandum the Historic Sites and Monuments Board was born, for the Minister of the Department of the Interior at that time, the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, approved of Mr. Harkin's proposal, the first members of the Board were appointed, and on October 28th, 1919, its first meeting was held in a departmental office in Ottawa.

Who, then, have served on the body which came into being after this fashion? The original members, as Mr. Harkin had suggested, were seven in number. Two were from the Department, Mr. Harkin himself and Mr. F. H. H. Williamson, who acted as Secretary. Five were honorary advisory members: DR. BENJAMIN SULTE of Ottawa, distinguished French-Canadian historian and poet; BRIG. GENERAL E. A. CRUIKSHANK, for a time Director of the Historical Section of the General Staff, historian of the War of 1812 on the Niagara Frontier and editor of *The Simcoe and Russell Papers*; Dr. James H. Coyne of St. Thomas, Ontario, who had given much productive study to the history of South Western Ontario, and Mr. W. C. Milner of Halifax and Archdeacon W. O. Raymond of Saint John, both of whom had been prominent in the movements for the preservation and marking of historic sites in their respective provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

At the first meeting of the Board it was moved by Mr. Milner and seconded by Dr. Coyne that General Cruikshank take the chair. His chairmanship lasted until his death in 1939 and during these twenty years much was accomplished and the organization and policies of the Board evolved into the general form which they have since retained. After a gap in 1940 because of the national preoccupation with the Second World War, the much beloved JUDGE F. W. HOWAY of New Westminster, historian of British Columbia and the chief Canadian authority on the maritime fur trade, became chairman from 1941 until his death in 1943, which was lamented by a host of

friends across Canada. From 1943 to 1950 the late DR. J. C. WEBSTER of Shediac, New Brunswick, whose work in the history of the Maritime Provinces is well known, gave the Board a distinguished leadership, and in 1950 he in turn was succeeded by PROFESSOR FRED LANDON, at that time Vice-President of the University of Western Ontario and an authority on the history of Ontario, the Great Lakes, and various aspects of Canadian-American relations.

Naturally the personnel of the Board has gradually changed as resignations and deaths took place over the years. Professor Landon and Professor D. C. Harvey, Archivist of Nova Scotia, joined the Board in 1931, Mr. Justice Fabre-Surveyer of Montreal in 1933, and Father Antoine d'Eschambault of Winnipeg in 1938. These are the senior members. In 1943 the Dominion Archivist was made a member *ex officio* and in 1953 the Curator of the National Museum was given a similar status. Except for the *ex officio* members, appointments have been for periods of five years, but members are eligible for reappointment and this has almost invariably taken place. Until 1953 the Board was authorized by Order-in-Council but in that year it was placed on a statutory basis.³

In concluding this survey of personnel perhaps one observation should be made. Though there has been no formal connection between the Board and the Canadian Historical Association there has been an informal one. Since its inception most of the members of the Board have been members also of the Association and no fewer than seven members of the Board have been Presidents of the Association. Few would claim that this community of membership and interests has been devoid of value, even though it may be of an intangible quality that is difficult to put into words.

So much for the membership of the Board. The present organization of its work, of course, is the result of an evolution, but I shall spare you the steps in that process and describe it as it is. In general it may be said to have a central aspect and a local or regional one.

The central aspect is particularly in evidence when the Board assembles for three or four days for its Annual Meeting in Ottawa late in May or early in June. It should be emphasized that it is simply an advisory body, functioning within the Department of the Interior at the beginning, but now within the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, and in that Department within the National Parks Branch and the Historic Parks and Sites Division. Its recommendations, therefore, are subject to Departmental veto, which is seldom imposed, and to the availability of funds to implement them.

³ A photograph taken at the 1953 Annual Meeting of the Board was shown. The members were: Professor D. C. Harvey, Nova Scotia; Mr. C. E. A. Jeffery, Newfoundland; Professor F. Landon, Ontario; Mr. Justice Fabre-Surveyer, Quebec; Father A. d'Eschambault, Manitoba; Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist; Hon. Thane A. Campbell, Prince Edward Island; Professor W. N. Sage, British Columbia; Mr. Campbell Innis, Saskatchewan; Dr. F. J. Alcock, Chief Curator of the National Museum, Ottawa; Dr. M. H. Long, Alberta; Major-General H. A. Young, Deputy Minister, Department of National Resources and Development; Mr. J. A. Hutchison, Director, National Parks Branch; Colonel C. G. Child, Superintendent of Historic Parks and Sites and Secretary of the Board; Dean Alfred G. Bailey, New Brunswick and Mr. Bryan and Mr. Dove, Advisors in the National Parks Branch.

These materialize only when a three-fold gauntlet has been successfully run — the Departmental estimates, the general Governmental estimates as reviewed by the Cabinet, and the scrutiny of Parliament. I can assure you that if all the Board had to do were to wave some magic wand to provide the money it needs it would have accomplished much more in many directions than it has been able to achieve.

At its Annual Meeting the Board does, mainly, three things. First, it discusses matters of general policy and makes appropriate recommendations on them to the Department. Secondly, its members determine what sites, structures, events or persons should be commemorated. Proposals emanate from members of the Board, or from individual citizens who have approached the Board or some member of it, or from some official or Department of government. Sometimes they come also from churches, clubs, or societies of various sorts. To all proposals the Board has to apply one touchstone: "Does the person or event to be commemorated or the structure to be preserved possess national significance of some kind?" This is not always easy to determine for there are frequently border-line cases, and the Board can only exercise its best collective judgment. In cases which are not approved, it is still possible, obviously, for Provincial or municipal governments or groups of various kinds to take action which may be very much worthwhile, action which the Board greatly welcomes and in which both members of the Board and the Department are ready to cooperate. In cases which are approved there remains, thirdly, the work of composing suitable inscriptions. Drafts of these, prepared in the first place by the member of the Board for the Province where the memorial is to be placed, are then considered by the Board collectively. It is no easy matter to compress within an inscription of at the most 500 letters all the significant things which should be said and to say them in appropriate phrasing. It involves much scratching of heads and when a member's pet draft is submitted to the general discussion of the Board it emerges, sometimes in its framer's view badly mangled, but as a rule improved.

The Annual Meeting over, members of the Board, other than the three Ottawa officials, return to their respective homes in the ten Provinces of Canada, and the local or regional aspect of their work replaces the central aspect of it. The latter, however, does not completely disappear for the members are tied together by frequent correspondence with the Secretary in Ottawa, and important general matters which have arisen since the Annual Meeting are occasionally decided by discussion and vote through the mail. Locally members are responsible for the selection of the spots where monuments are to be erected or tablets placed, a task which is sometimes easy, sometimes difficult, and which occasionally involves local jealousies. Sometimes, also, trips have to be made to inspect possible sites, determine their authenticity, and choose the most suitable ones, or to inspect the condition of monuments and structures for which the Department has become responsible, or to make local contacts for the preparation of unveiling ceremonies. For the organization and conduct of these is another local duty of the member. He must either secure a suitable speaker to give the principal address or prepare and deliver it himself. Usually he arranges for some local body — an old timers' association, a local historical society, or

the municipal authorities to "sponsor" the unveiling, that is, to provide a platform, decorations, chairs, music, loudspeakers and publicity. It is a settled policy of the Board to enlist local interest and help in unveiling ceremonies, and usually the head of the sponsoring body is asked to act as chairman for the occasion. All this involves a good deal of effort, and not infrequently tact, on the part of the Board member. Unveiling ceremonies are attended by audiences which vary from scores to hundreds, or even one or two thousand, and sometimes they are rather colourful.

The unveiling of the Alexander MacKenzie Obelisk at Bella Coola, B. C., August 26th, 1927 had *H.M.C.S. Patrician* in attendance. The Crowfoot unveiling at Gleichen, Alberta, had the Indian Council Chamber as a back drop, and Duck Chief, Head Chief of the *Blackfoot*, Shot on both Sides, Head Chief of the *Bloods* and a number of Indians in attendance.⁴ Other particularly colourful unveilings were in Central Park, Calgary, commemorating the establishment of Fort Calgary by the North West Mounted Police in August 1875; near Cobden, Ontario, commemorating the discovery of Champlain's Astrolabe; the memorial of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt at Welshpool, Campobello Island, New Brunswick; and the Alcock-Brown Trans-Atlantic Flight (1919) Memorial at St. John's, Newfoundland.

From what has been said it will have become apparent that the duties of members of the Board follow them the year around. Perhaps it should be added that their service is honorary in character. Except for a fee while attending the Annual Meeting, expenses only are received.

One of the immediate things which the Board had to determine at the beginning of its activities was the nature of the tablets and monuments which it would set up. As to the tablets, it was decided that they should be of two sorts: for persons, places or structures of major national significance a larger or standard tablet, and for those of lesser national importance a smaller, secondary one. It was also decided that in parts of Canada where the population was overwhelmingly French the inscription should be in French, where it was overwhelmingly English-speaking it should be in English, and where the population was mixed, or some other circumstance made it appropriate, the inscription should be bilingual.

A good example of the *standard tablet* is that on the monument near Morden, Saskatchewan, commemorating the celebrated journey of La Verendrye to the country of the Mandan Indians. It bears one of the bilingual inscriptions. The design of the tablet was arrived at by holding a nation-wide competition. The first prize was awarded to Major Ernest Forbery, sculptor. The overall height of his tablet is 33½ inches and its width 20 inches, and it embodies much interesting symbolism. The frame is surrounded by a border of pine cones and pine needles emblematic of our northern climate. It is surmounted by a Crown signifying that Canada is a monarchy and a unit of the Empire-Commonwealth. Below the Crown are maple leaves and below these an inscription "Historic Sites and Monuments Board of

⁴ Big Swan, Big Snake, Pretty Young Man, Many Bears, Charles Raw Eaten, William Many Heads and Two Young Men were in the illustration.

Canada", or its French equivalent. Last year the design was changed so that "Erected by the Government of Canada" now appears at the top and "Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada" is placed in the panel at the foot. On either side surrounding the circular reliefs, are representations of the lily, rose, thistle, shamrock, and leek, emblems of the peoples from France and the British Isles who were the early settlers of Canada. In the circular relief on the left is depicted the arrival of Jacques Cartier which marked the beginning of Canadian history, and in that on the right, portraying the later development of Canada, are in the foreground a harbor with elevator, docks and shipping, in the left background a cultivated countryside, and in the right background a city. At the bottom, on the shield to the left is the first coat of arms used in Canada, the fleur de lis and cross, and on the right the shield bears the modern arms of Canada. It may be claimed, I think, that the tablet displays imagination, dignity and artistry.

The secondary tablet, of which that cast in honor of the late SIR ROBERT FALCONER, for so many years President of the University of Toronto, is an example, is smaller and less ornate in character. It was designed in consultation with the Department by the Canada Bronze Company of Montreal, the firm which casts tablets for the Board. Occasionally,⁵ appropriate additional emblems have been placed above or below the standard tablets.

In addition to providing appropriate tablets, suitable monuments had to be evolved on which to place them. These have been of various types. The simplest is the boulder left by nature on or near the site to be commemorated. This has been used effectively, I think, in marking the site of the Indian village, HOCHELAGA, visited by Jacques Cartier in 1535, which was on or near the campus of McGill University in Montreal. Next comes the stone block, set on a low pedestal and roughly chiseled, as in the case of the memorial on Marine Drive, Vancouver, to that rugged explorer SIMON FRASER, of the North West Co., marking the spot where he completed the hazardous descent of the river that bears his name. In a great many cases the cairn has been used in one of two forms: the field stone cairn as at ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, ALBERTA, and the flat-faced stone cairn as at Blenheim, Ontario, commemorating MCKEE'S PURCHASE, in 1790, of a large tract of land from the Indians to provide new homes for United Empire Loyalists. Not infrequently these cairns are in remote places and fit naturally into an environment little touched by man. In a few cases the cross has been used as at Port Dover, Ontario, to mark the spot where the missionaries, DOLLIER AND GALINEE, in March 1670, erected a cross and took possession of the Lake Erie region for the King of France; or at Saint John, New Brunswick, in King Square, in commemoration of the FOUNDING OF THE PROVINCE, August 16, 1784; or as at Gaspé where JACQUES CARTIER erected his celebrated cross in 1534. Across the continent the obelisk form of monument was successfully employed, as has been noted, to mark the

⁵ Examples illustrated were: A bronze tablet bearing a likeness made from a photograph of the famous sailing vessel *Bluenose*; a likeness of Champlain's astrolabe, lost in 1613, found in 1867; and the form of an early aircraft on the tablet marking the first Canadian military test flights at Petawawa.

point on Dean Channel near Bella Coola where SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE reached the Pacific on July 21, 1793. Even the Legend which he painted on the rocks has been reproduced below the monument on the self-same rocks. Of recent years recourse has been had more frequently to cut stone monuments of two types. One, designed by the Engineering Branch of the Department of the Interior, was employed to commemorate the public services of the Hon. and Rt. Rev. ALEXANDER MACDONNELL, colonizer in Glengarry, chaplain in the War of 1812, first Roman Catholic Bishop in Upper Canada, and member of the Legislative Council; and the other, designed by Mr. W. D. Cromarty, architect and Superintendent of Historic Parks and Sites, may be seen in the INDIAN TREATIES MONUMENT at Orillia, marking the negotiation of Indian land surrenders of 1798, 1815 and 1818. Occasionally, when funds have been made available, more pretentious cut stone monuments have been erected such as that which stands opposite the city hall in Lachine, in honor of LASALLE.

In all, the Department, on the advice of the Board, has marked 477 sites, and 188 more have been approved and are on a waiting list until funds become available.

In addition, not a few monuments erected by others have, with their sites, on the recommendation of the Board, come under the control of the Department for proper care and maintenance.⁶ Not only monuments, but many historic structures and areas, have been taken over by the Department on the advice of the Board for preservation or reconstruction and maintenance, and in some cases historical museums have come into being in connection with them. The usual procedure has been to erect the areas, whether large or small, into National Historic Parks.

One of the most interesting of these is the Port Royal National Historic Park at Lower Granville, Nova Scotia. There, on the original site on the shore of the Annapolis Basin, the Government of Canada has erected a replica of the Port Royal Habitation built in 1605 by Champlain and De Monts. Champlain's Plan of the Habitation was a valuable guide in the work of reconstruction and today one may wander through these buildings and stroll about the courtyard and with little effort of the imagination picture the life lived by these first European settlers in Canada.

Destroyed by Captain Samuel Argall from Virginia in 1613, Port Royal was rebuilt about 1633 several miles eastward on the south shore of the Annapolis River, and after the conquest of Acadia by Britain it was renamed Annapolis Royal. Here has been erected the FORT ANNE National Historic Park. It has many interesting

⁶ Examples of these, large and small, are: The well known monument to the French Canadian heroine, Madeleine de Verchères, the figure done in bronze by the sculptor Philippe Hébert, erected by the Government of Canada in 1913 and transferred to the Department in 1923; the Glengarry Cairn at South Lancaster, Ontario, commemorating the men of the Glengarry Militia who took part in the suppression of the Rebellion of 1837; the Memorial Tower near Preston, Ontario, in memory of the pioneer settlers of Waterloo County; the monuments to the battles in the War of 1812 of Chrysler's Farm, Stoney Creek, and Lundy's Lane; and in the West on Main Street, West Kildonan, Winnipeg, the Seven Oaks Monument commemorating the armed clash between the partisans of the North West and Hudson's Bay Companies on June 19, 1816.

features including the old French powder magazine, the ancient muzzle loading cannon and piles of iron cannon balls on the ramparts, a monument to the SIEUR DE MONTS, and the old OFFICER'S QUARTERS now transformed into a museum. Its different rooms are devoted to the display of relics of successive periods such as the ACADIAN ROOM and the PRE-LOYALIST ROOM.

Further eastward the Department, on the recommendation of the Board, has recently assumed custodianship of the historic CITADEL OF HALIFAX and has begun long-term operations for its preservation. On Cape Breton Island, also, the extensive ruins of the FORTRESS OF LOUISBOURG, the "Dunkirk of America", constitute yet another National Historic Park and out of some of its tumbled stone A MUSEUM has been built which houses relics of the fortress and also a carefully reconstructed MODEL which shows what it was originally like.

Likewise, in New Brunswick on the Isthmus of Chignecto we have the FORT BEAUSEJOUR National Historic Park and a MUSEUM, which owes its establishment largely to the initiative of the late Dr. Webster. One of its most interesting relics is the old BEAUBASSIN CHURCH BELL.

Similarly, in Quebec two famous fortresses guarding the vulnerable approach to Canada by the Richelieu River have been erected into National Historic Parks. These are FORT LENNOX at Ile-aux-Noix about 12 miles south of St. John's, with its beautiful PARADE GROUND and the massive colonaded OFFICER'S QUARTERS, and FORT CHAMBLY, first built of wood in 1665, nearly 300 years ago. A portion of the interior has been equipped as a MUSEUM. The BIRTH-PLACE OF SIR WILFRED LAURIER at St. Lin, Quebec, furnished as in his boyhood, has also been acquired as a Museum. In front stands a standard tablet mounted on a boulder, and in the interior a view of THE KITCHEN and a corner of THE DINING ROOM illustrate the period furnishing.

In Ontario the same work of preserving historic structures and areas and making them and their relics accessible to the public has been carried on. Three examples only must suffice: the MARTELLO TOWER in Macdonald Park, Kingston, erected by the Royal Engineers in 1846 for the defence of that strategic city and leased to the Kingston Historical Society for museum purposes; the BLOCK HOUSE in Fort Wellington National Historic Park, Prescott, built during the War of 1812 to defend the line of communication between Kingston and Montreal; and the FORT MALDEN National Historic Park, Amherstburg.

In Western Canada I need hardly mention LOWER FORT GARRY, built by the Hudson's Bay Company between 1831 and 1839, which many of you have so recently visited. It came under the care of the Department in 1951. Further north at Churchill, Manitoba, in Fort Prince of Wales National Historic Park, are preserved the partially restored walls of that most northerly fortress in North America, built by the Company between 1733 and 1771. About two miles away, also, the Department acquired in 1932 the area of rock at Sloop Cove on which SAMUEL HEARNE laboriously carved his name in 1767.

Further west at Battleford the buildings of the original North West Mounted Police Post established there in 1876, which had been

rescued and restored as a MEMORIAL MUSEUM largely by private effort led by Mr. Campbell Innes, Saskatchewan member of the Board, were acquired and erected in 1951 into the Fort Battleford National Historic Park.

And finally, across the mountains, the only remaining building of FORT LANGLEY, built by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1827, was acquired in 1924 with a view to its preservation. It is now used as a Museum by the Native Sons of British Columbia.

I should like to conclude this paper with the paying of a tribute and the expression of a hope. The tribute is to the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, and particularly to the Historic Parks and Sites Division of the National Parks Branch with which the Board in its advisory capacity is so closely associated. The erection of its own monuments and tablets across the breadth of Canada, the care of them and of others which have come under its control, the restoration and maintenance of historic sites and structures, the operation of museums — all these together obviously constitute a task of very considerable magnitude. Among members of the Board admiration for the efficiency with which this task has been performed by the officials of the Department is only equalled by appreciation of the unwearying courtesy and helpfulness which has been experienced at their hands.

The hope that I wish to express is that the survey which I have tried to give will not only have provided a useful background for discussion by the Canadian Historical Association on Saturday morning but will also have increased the interest of the body of citizens here present in the Board and its work. Admittedly, external criticism is salutary for the Board. Constructive suggestions and other forms of cooperation, also, are most welcome both from individuals and from organizations such as the Canadian Historical Association. Above all, however, an informed and widespread public interest is essential for without its influence on governments adequate funds will not be forthcoming for the proper execution of worthy commemorative projects, whether on a national or a provincial or a local scale. If such public interest has been increased even a little by this paper its main purpose will have been achieved.