

# Report of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association Rapport de l'assemblée annuelle de la Société historique du Canada

Report of the Annual Meeting

## Some Historic and Prehistoric Sites of Canada

Canadian National Parks Branch

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THE CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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**SOME HISTORIC AND PREHISTORIC SITES OF CANADA**

BY

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH

Considerable progress in the past year was made in the work of preserving and marking the Canadian historic sites of national importance. A general meeting of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board was held at which a number of sites under consideration were reviewed and their comparative importance determined. The cooperation of provincial and local historical societies in the preservation of Dominion landmarks has been sought, and forty of these have offered their assistance. Six hundred and ten sites have already come to the attention of the Department and out of these eighty-two have received immediate attention.

A summary of what has been accomplished during the past year follows. The data included in last year's summary are not repeated here. (Cf. *The Historic Landmarks Association of Canada, Annual Report 1921*, pp. 42-51).

THE MARITIME PROVINCES

*Louisbourg, N.S.*

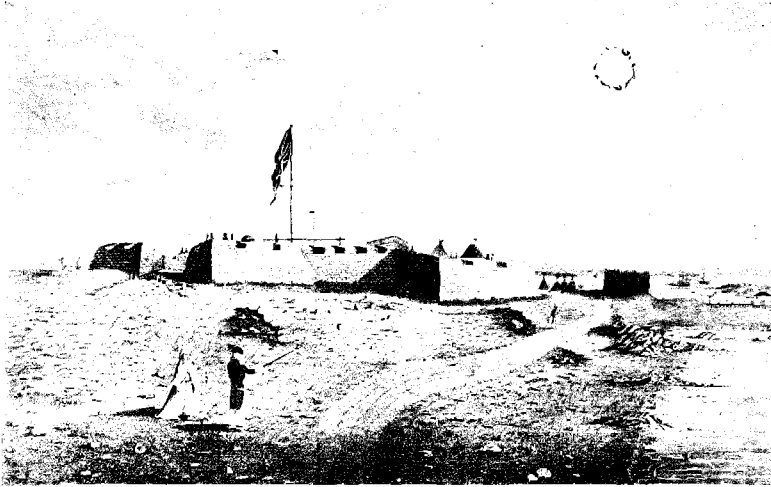
Ruins of an old French fort, built in 1720-40, once a stronghold of France. The survey of the whole site was undertaken by the Department of Railways and Canals, and the returns with plans have been received.

*Fort Edward, Windsor, N.S.*

Formerly the old French Fort Piziquid, which came into possession of the British soon after 1749; transferred for preservation and restoration from the Department of Militia and Defence to The Canadian National Parks Branch.

*Fort Moncton* (about one and a half mile from Fort Elgin, N.B.)

Formerly the old Fort Gaspereaux, erected at Bay Verte by the French about 1750, to command the defence of the Isthmus of Chignecto, and captured in 1755 by the British. All that remains is the square of trenches, some old grave stones, and the ancient turnpike and causeway. The contour of the walls can easily be ascertained.



*A north-west view of Fort Prince of Wales in Hudson Bay, by Samuel Hearne, 1777.*



*Ruins of Fort Cumberland, N.S., (Photo., Can. Nat. Parks).*

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*Fort Cumberland* (about four miles from Amherst, N.S.)

Formerly the old French Fort Beauséjour, erected in the middle of the seventeenth century near Beaubassin, one of the most important Acadian settlements. It was captured in 1755 by the British and named Fort Cumberland. The ruins of a fort of five bastions and of the old barracks are still to be seen. The casemates are still in a fair state of preservation, being of solid brickwork. The site will be fenced, the ruins preserved from further deterioration, and a cairn and tablet erected.

*Fort Lawrence* (about three miles from Amherst, N.S.)

Erected in 1750 at Misagouche by Major Charles Lawrence, it proved an important factor in the struggles between the French and English in the eighteenth century. Only vague traces of trenches remain. It is intended to erect a monument and tablet.

*Battle of Grand Pré* (near Grand-Pré Station).

Site of the battle of February 10, 1748. Monument and tablet to be erected.

QUEBEC

*St. Maurice Forges* (near Three Rivers).

(Cf. *loc. cit.*, p. 43.) A cairn constructed of stones from the ruins will be erected during the present summer, and a bronze tablet with inscription will be attached.

*La Vérendrye, Three Rivers.*

(Cf. *loc. cit.*, p. 43.) The foundations of his birthplace, now situated in a beautiful park overlooking the St. Lawrence River, in the city of Three Rivers, are still to be seen, and a tablet has been erected privately on one of the pillars which support the iron railing surrounding the park.

*Battle of Three Rivers.*

(Cf. *loc. cit.*, p. 43.) A monument with a standard bronze tablet bearing the historic data will be erected on a plot of land along Des Forges Street.

*Chateauguay, Allan's Corners.*

(Cf. *loc. cit.*, p. 43.) A blockhouse was erected in the spring of 1815, two or three miles below the site of the battle.

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on the right bank of the Chateauguay River. Outlines of the walls are still in evidence. A monument and tablet will be erected.

*Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix.*

(*Cf. loc. cit.*, p. 47.) This site comprises five islands covering an area of approximately 210 acres, together with the buildings. It is now under the control of the Department of the Interior. Considerable progress has already been made in the work of preservation and restoration. A custodian has been appointed. The museum in the fort contains Indian relics, military buttons, bayonets, crests, badges, plates, silver and copper coins of the period, and also trophies of the Great War of 1914. A pamphlet giving the history of the fort has been published both in English and in French (*Guide to Fort Lennox . . . and Guide pour Fort Lennox, Canadian National Parks, 1922.*)

*Fort Chambly, Chambly.*

(*Cf. Eoc. cit.*, p. DE.) Built in the fall of 1687 by Gédéon massive walls from further disintegration; and the cemetery is also being taken care of. A museum containing articles of interest has been added to the fort, and a pamphlet giving extensive information has been issued by the Department (*Guide to Fort Chambly, Canadian National Parks, 1922.*)

*Fort Laprairie (Laprairie, Quebec).*

(*Cf. loc. cit.*, p. 45.) Built in the fall of 1687 by Gédéon de Catalogne, it was the scene of an unsuccessful attack by the New England Militia during the nights of August 10 and 11, 1691. The old fort was a refuge for the inhabitants during the wars of 1687-1713, during which period a garrison was maintained. It is proposed to erect a monument and tablet in a public park known as Foch Square.

*Lacolle.*

Site of an old wooden blockhouse and of the Battle of Lacolle Mill, 1812. It is proposed to erect a cairn and tablet.

*Gaspé.*

Site of the landing place of Jacques Cartier, in August, 1534, at Gaspé Bay. Definite proposals as to commemoration are under consideration.

*Fort Remy.*

A stone windmill and palisade built by Jean Millot in 1671. This site embraced Lasalle's house and was sold to the Seminary in 1673. The place was still maintained in 1744 and garrisoned until 1760. It is proposed to erect a monument and a tablet.

*Fort Sorel.*

It was constructed by Pierre de Saurel in 1665. It is situated at the junction of the Richelieu and St. Lawrence Rivers. A regular garrison was maintained until 1708. A monument and tablet are proposed.

*Fort Longueuil.*

Built in 1685, during the war with the Iroquois, it was used as a refuge for the settlers on several occasions. The fort, which was two stories high, was constructed of stone, flanked by four solid towers, with a guard house and many large detached buildings. It was occupied by the Americans in 1775, burnt in 1792, and demolished in 1810. A tablet is to be placed on the outer wall of the church which occupies a portion of the original site.

*Fort Gentilly.*

Situated above Lachine, opposite Dorval Island; erected in 1674 and garrisoned until 1689; used as a depot and camp by the British troops during the war of 1812-1815. Monument and tablet proposed.

*Fort Cuillerier.*

Situated below Lachine; built in 1676 (surrounded with palisades), by René Cuillerier, and in use for thirty years. A strong fort, a powder magazine and military stores were erected by the British authorities about the end of the eighteenth century, and proved useful in the war of 1812-1815. Monument and tablet proposed.

*Fort Rolland (near Lachine)*

Erected in 1670 by François le Noir dit Rolland; garrisoned at the time of the Lachine massacre, in 1689, and until 1705; still in existence in 1744. The site is situated in a small park. Monument and tablet proposed.

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*Fort Verdun* (near Montreal)

Fortifications built by Zacharie Dupuy, in 1662; utilized as a protection for the shore along Lake St. Louis, and for Montreal; military camps were stationed here in 1688, 1689. It is proposed to erect a monument and tablet.

*Fort Senneville*

Situated on the extremity of the Island of Montreal, commanding Lake of Two Mountains; a windmill of stone built in 1686 by Sieur de Senneville. Six years later a fort was erected which rendered valuable service during the wars of 1692—1714. The ruins are still in a fair state of preservation.

*Fort Charlesbourg Royal* (Cap Rouge)

Built in 1541 by Jacques Cartier, who wintered there before returning to France in the next year; occupied during the winters of 1542—1544 by Roberval; abandoned in 1545. Monument and tablet recommended.

*Arbre-à-la-Croix* (near Cap Madeleine)

House with fortifications built by Jacques Hertel in 1644 as a protection against the Iroquois. It served as a refuge for the inhabitants and travellers. It was destroyed by the Indians in 1651. The site is located in an open field. Cairn and tablet proposed.

*Tadoussac*

Well-known in the early French régime as a fur trade centre for the Montagnais. The erection of a tablet has been proposed.

*Battle of Rivière-des-Prairies*

Site of the Battle of July 2, 1690, at Coulée Groulx, between the French and the Iroquois. Monument and tablet proposed.

*Battle of Eccles Hill* (County Missisquoi)

Site of the Battle of May 25, 1870, between the Fenian invaders and the Canadian Volunteers and Home Guards. A monument has already been erected four miles from Frelighsburg by the Dominion Government in commemoration of this event.

*Du Lhut's Birthplace, Montreal*

Site of Daniel Greysolon Du Lhut's residence (corner of St. Paul Street and Place Jacques-Cartier, Montreal), who died on Feb. 25, 1710. Du Lhut was an explorer of the Upper Mississippi after whom the city of Duluth was named. A marble tablet has already been placed on the building at the corner of the above streets, in commemoration of his services to his country.

*The Three Rivers Massacre*

Site of the massacre of the Governor of Three Rivers and twenty-two men by the Iroquois on the outskirts of the town, on August 19, 1632. It is proposed to erect a monument and a tablet.

*Three Rivers Platon and Fort*

Built in 1634, it was several times attacked by the Iroquois from 1641 to 1660. It was demolished in 1668. The Custom House and Post Office building now stand on its former location. A tablet will be placed on the walls.

*Fort St. John*

Situated near the village of St. Jean. Constructed in 1666. Scene of the siege in 1775. Monument and tablet proposed.

*Lachenaie*

Near Terrebonne, in the county of L'Assomption. Raided by the Iroquois, who, in the summer of 1691, surprised and killed several settlers. Monument and tablet proposed.

EASTERN ONTARIO

*Old Simcoe Building, Kingston*

Where Lord Simcoe held his first Executive Council, in 1792. The present office of the Kingston *British Whig*, it has been ascertained, stands on its former site. This Company has granted the Department permission to place a commemorative tablet on the walls of their building, which will be done during next summer in connection with the anniversary celebration of the foundation of the City of Kingston.

*Glengarry House*

(*Cf. loc. cit.* p. 47.) Only ruins of the walls remain. A cairn with a commemorative tablet is to be erected on the site.



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### *Glengarry Cairn*

Situated on Monument Island, County of Glengarry, on the St. Lawrence River and opposite the town of Lancaster. This cairn, of conical shape, fifty-two feet high and fifty-two feet in diameter at the base, with winding outside stairs, was erected by the Highland Militia of Glengarry to commemorate the services of Sir John Colborne, who commanded Her Majesty's forces in Canada at the time of the 1837-38 Rebellion. This property has been purchased, and will be given all necessary care for its preservation.

### *Fort Wellington*

In the town of Prescott, north of the Provincial Highway. It consists of a blockhouse, the caretaker's dwelling, and two other buildings. It was constructed in 1812-1813 as the main post for defence between Kingston and Montreal. The forces that took Ogdensburg on February 22, 1813, and the troops engaged in repelling the invasion at the Windmill, November 11-13, 1838, were assembled here. The Department of Militia and Defence has been requested to transfer its control to the Department of the Interior.

## WESTERN ONTARIO

### *Mission of Ste. Marie II. Christian Island*

(*Cf. loc. cit.*, p. 48.) The ruins of the ancient fortifications built by the Jesuits in 1649 are to-day easily to be found, though much overgrown with trees and brush. A memorial tablet will be placed on the site and the property cleared, drained and fenced.

### *Port Dover (Site of the Cross) "Cliff Site"*

(*Cf. loc. cit.*, p. 49.) An artificial stone cross sixteen feet high has been erected to commemorate the occupation in the name of King Louis XIV of France of the lands of the Lake Erie region by the Sulpician priests Dollier and Galinée, on March 23, 1670. A commemorative tablet together with two plates of the *procès-verbal* and the Arms of France are to be placed on the pedestal of the cross and the site surrounded by a fence. A pamphlet on the history of the site has also been published by the Department (*The Lake Erie Cross, Port Dover, Ontario, 1922*).

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*Niagara Frontier*

*The historic sites of national significance along the Niagara front, between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, have been fairly well indicated in the past by the erection of markers or tablets. It has been decided to complete this work by the addition of the following sites:—*

*Chippewa*

The most ancient village on the Canadian frontier, situated on the south side of Chippewa Creek in an open field near Niagara Falls. It was the scene of a desperate fight on July 5, 1814, between Canadian and American troops, with serious losses of men on both sides. A monument is being constructed by the Niagara Falls Park Commission near the main boulevard, and one of the Department's commemorative tablets will be placed on it.

*Frenchman's Creek*

Situated near Bridgeburg. Site of the action of November 27, 1812, between Canadian and American troops; also of the landing place of the Fenians on May 31, 1866. It is proposed to place a commemorative tablet, on a monument which is being erected by the Niagara Falls Park Commission in honour of the officers and men of the Royal Artillery, 49th Regiment and Norfolk Militia, killed in this action.

*Vrooman's Battery*

Situated on the left bank of the river, below Queenston. Used in the Battle of Queenston's Heights, October 13, 1812; this battery fired 112 rounds on that day. A suitable standard is being erected by the Niagara Falls Park Commission on which a commemorative tablet will be placed.

*Battle of Cock's Mills*

Situated on Lyon's Creek Road about four miles east of the city of Welland. Site of the Battle of October 19, 1814, between Canadian and American troops, in which several officers and men of the 82nd, 100th and 104th Regiments and Glen-garry Light Infantry were killed. A monument and tablet, enclosed by fence, will be erected on the site.

*Battlefield of Fort George*

Situated at the intersection of Queen Street and Lake Shore Road, outside the town of Niagara. Landing place of the

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invading Americans and scene of the battle of May 27, 1813, resulting in its capture. A plot of ground on the military property at Fort Missassagua has been transferred to the Department of the Interior, and a monument and commemorative tablet will be erected.

*Battlefield of Beechwoods or Beaver Dams*

Situated on the Mountain Road near Thorold. Site of the action of June 24, 1813, between the invading Americans and Canadian troops, resulting in the dispersion with heavy losses of the Americans. A site has been donated, and a monument and tablet will be erected and surrounded by a fence.

*Battlefield of Ridgeway*

Situated at the northeast corner of the junction of Garrison and Bridge Roads, about three miles from Fort Erie. It is proposed to erect a cairn and tablet to commemorate the action of June 2, 1866, between a force of the Canadian Militia and a body of invading Fenians.

*Site of Tête-du-Pont Battery*

Situated on Hog Island, at the mouth of the Chippewa River. A battery was utilized here in September and October, 1814, for the defence of the Chippewa Creek line. The erection of a stone marker will eventually take place.

*Weishuhn's Redoubt*

Situated at the confluence of Lyon's Creek and Chippewa River near Willoughby, Ont. It was utilized in September and October, 1814, for the defence of the line of Chippewa Creek. Owing to the remote location of the site it has been decided to erect a stone marker near the Lyon's Creek Bridge.

*Navy Island Shipyard*

Situated on Navy Island, in the Niagara River near Chippewa. Established under the direction of the military authorities in 1761 and maintained until 1763. Three small schooners and a number of smaller crafts were built there. Owing to its inaccessibility a monument and tablet will be erected on the Niagara boulevard opposite the island.

*Sault Ste. Marie (Lock Site)*

Constructed by the North West Company in 1797 and destroyed in July, 1814, by the United States troops. A por-

tion of the old lock was uncovered in 1889, and later it was rebuilt of stone. A monument and tablet will be placed on the site.

*Port Arthur*

Several historic events worthy of commemoration—the building of the stockade by Col. Wolseley, the construction of the Red River road to Fort Garry, etc.—took place in the neighbourhood. It has been decided to erect a monument with two tablets in commemoration of these on a site dedicated by the city for the purpose.

*Fort William*

Site of an old Hudson's Bay Company's stone magazine, the turning of the first sods of the C.P.R. and the G.T.P., and the arrival of the first shipment of grain, in 1883, from the West. It has been decided to erect a monument with a tablet or tablets commemorating these events.

*Point de Meuron, near Fort William*

Situated at the foot of the rapids on the Kaministikwia River. It was a portage point for the early fur traders and explorers. Lord Selkirk's De Meuron regiment also wintered here, in 1816. It is proposed to erect a cairn and tablet.

*Fort Nottawasaga*

About four miles from the mouth of the Nottawasaga River, near Stayner. Site of a blockhouse built in 1814 and destroyed by U. S. forces, after a spirited defence, during the same year. A new fort was built in 1816 and garrisoned until 1818. It is proposed to erect a cairn and tablet on Wasaga Beach.

*Brock's Route, Port Dover to Detroit, 1812*

The several camping places along the route of General Brock's expedition to Detroit are to be suitably marked, and the following recommendations have been made in regard to the following points:

*Port Stanley*

At the mouth of Kettle Creek. Site of arrival of Joliet, in September, 1669; Dollier and Galinée, in April, 1670; and of the halt of Brock on his way to Amherstburg, August 9-10, 1812. A site at the junction of Bridge, Main, Joseph and Colborne Streets has been donated for the erection of a cairn and tablet.

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*Port Talbot*

On the south side of the Talbot Road, near Wallacetown. The events to be commemorated are the foundation of the Talbot Settlement, May 21, 1803, and the halt of Brock on his way to Amherstburg, on August 10, 1812. Cairn and tablet proposed.

*Brock's Creek*

In the township of Aldborough, near the village of Rodney. A site for a tablet has been selected on the south side of the provincial highway west of the bridge over Brock's Creek, to commemorate the halt of Brock's expedition at the mouth of the Creek, August 11, 1812.

*Brock's Tree*

Near Rondeau. Site of Brock's encampment August 11, 1812. The tree itself has been destroyed by the encroachment of the lake, but a site has been selected for the erection of a tablet at the intersection of the main highway leading to the Erie Beach and the principal street of that village.

*Point Pelee*

Dollier's expedition in April, 1670, here met with disaster. It is also the site of the defeat of the Royal American Regiment, May 28, 1763; of the encampment of Brock's force, August 12, 1812; and the Battle of Pelee Island, in March, 1838. A memorial tablet will be erected in the vicinity of the "Carrying Place" near the new pavilion within the present park reserve.

*Sandwich*

Brock's force collected at the McKee farm, August 16, 1812, to attack Detroit, which surrendered the following day. A suitable site for a tablet has been selected at the northeast corner of Mill and Russell Streets.

*Battle of Moraviantown*

On the Provincial Highway, near Thamesville. Site of the settlement founded by David Zeisberger, May 2, 1792. Village burned by enemy forces, October 6, 1813. It is proposed to place a tablet on the existing monument erected by the Kent Historical Society.

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### *Battle of the Longwoods*

On the south side of the Provincial Highway, about four miles east of Wardsville. Site of the Battle of March 4, 1814. A monument and tablet are proposed.

### *Turkey Point*

About three miles east of Port Rowan. The events to be commemorated here are the encampment of Dollier and Galinée, in March, 1670; the passage of Major Gladwin and Sir Wm. Johnson, in 1761, to negotiate a treaty with the Indians. It was a British post in the war of 1812-1814; and Brock camped here August 8, 1812. A site for a monument and tablet has been selected.

### *Glengarry Landing*

Situated between Minesing and Edenvale. Lieut.-Col. Robert McDougall built the flotilla of boats for the relief of the British garrison at Fort Mackinac in May, 1814. Owing to its remote location, permission has been secured for the erection of a suitably inscribed stone marker near Edenvale Bridge, on the main road.

### *Fort St. Joe*

On the east end of St. Joseph's Island, on St. Mary's River, near Richard's Landing. Occupied as a military and trading post, 1796-1813. The force under Captain Charles Roberts which took Mackinac assembled here in July, 1812. The fort was dismantled and evacuated in 1813. Cairn and tablet proposed.

## WESTERN CANADA

### *Northwest Rebellion*

The following sites connected with the Rebellion of 1885 have been recommended to the Board and steps are being taken to secure the necessary historic data:

### *Battle of Fish Creek, Sask.*

Site of the Battle of April 24, 1885, between Riel's army and the forces under General Middleton. It is situated in a ravine on Section 23, Township 41, Range 2, West of the 3rd Meridian, about 10 miles from Batoche. Legal subdivision 15 was withdrawn from the control of the Dominion Lands Act in January, 1922, and transferred to Department of the

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Interior. It is reported that the ruins of a cairn of prairie boulders with the names of the fallen, erected by the soldiers at the time of the burial of their comrades, are still to be seen. Steps are being taken for its preservation.

### *Frog Lake Massacre, Sask.*

Situated about thirty miles from Fort Pitt, and about ten miles north of the Saskatchewan River. A Hudson's Bay Company's post and a Roman Catholic mission were established here. The Indians under chief Big Bear refused to accept a Government treaty, and at daybreak on April 2, 1885, murdered several of the inhabitants.

### *Batoche, Sask.*

Situated at Batoche Crossing, between Prince Albert and Saskatoon. Here a sharp engagement took place May 7, 1885, resulting in the capture of the village from Riel's forces by a detachment of four hundred and fifty men under General Middleton. Riel escaped, but was taken prisoner a couple of days after the battle.

### *Duck Lake, Sask.*

About five miles northwest of Batoche. Site of the Battle of March 26, 1885, between a small force under Major Crozier and a party of rebels under Gabriel Dumont. The short fight that followed was almost a massacre, and Major Crozier was forced to withdraw his men to Fort Carleton.

### *Clark's Crossing, now Clarkboro, Sask.*

Situated about nine miles from Saskatoon. Was of great strategic importance during the Rebellion as a base for operations, depot for supplies and headquarters for reinforcements. It was also on the main trail to Battleford and the telegraph line to the west.

### *Cut Knife Hill, Sask.*

Situated about thirty miles from Battleford. Site of the encounter of May 2, 1885, between a flying column under Colonel Otter and Poundmaker's Indians, the result of which was to compel Col. Otter to withdraw his force to Battleford.

### *Battleford, Sask.*

Headquarters of the Royal North West Mounted Police and first seat of Government of the Northwest Territories. It was besieged during the Rebellion of 1885.

*Fort Pitt, Sask.*

Situated on the Saskatchewan River near Lloydminster. The old Hudson's Bay Company's post was besieged and captured by the rebels under Poundmaker, who burned it before evacuation.

*Fort Prince of Wales, Man.*

(Cf. *loc. cit.*, p. 50.) Situated at Churchill, Manitoba. The most northerly fortress on the American continent, built by the Hudson's Bay Company between 1733 and 1747. Destroyed by the French under La Pérouse, and never rebuilt. Within the ruined walls are 38 old guns and the remains of the factor's residence. By an Order-in-Council of February 21, 1922, an area of fifty acres on which the fort is situated at the mouth of the Churchill River was reserved for historic purposes. Two enamelled signs have been affixed on the walls of the fort.

*Fort Livingstone, Man.*

Situated on Section 5, Township 34, Range 32, West of the Principal Meridian, near Swan River. Old Royal North West Mounted Police post and seat of Government for the North-west Territories. The erection of a cairn and tablet on the above section has been recommended.

## PUBLICITY

An extensive campaign of publicity conducted in connection with the various sites selected is being pursued, with a view to stimulating public interest and arousing national consciousness. Articles are also published semi-monthly in the departmental Bulletin. Short pamphlets are available for distribution containing a history of the sites of Fort Anne, Fort Lennox, Fort Chambly and Port Dover. Others are to be prepared and published as the work progresses.