

resources have already been built two of the greatest pulp and paper industries of the world. We are now having a further extension of the use of our forest wealth. The great area of Labrador, with its ascertained forest resources, its undoubted mineral possibilities, its unrivalled water power, its fisheries and its climate—which is not nearly as bad as its reputation—provide a setting for future developments of great importance.

In assessing our future possibilities, it is our fishing wealth which stands pre-eminent. What it has produced in the past is no criterion for the future. Newfoundland was populated by people from the British Isles who came to fish. They scattered themselves around in more than a thousand coves and harbours, and on the headlands where fishing was best. Salting was the only means of preserving their products. No vocation in life creates more self-reliance and sturdiness than living off the sea. The life was a hard one; but they stuck it out, for the sea was in their blood. Those who came to Newfoundland to fish pioneered the trade from the western hemisphere to Europe. In the days when the standard of living was universally judged by whether or not there was enough food to keep body and soul together, they existed comparably with people elsewhere. They built their homes, their churches and their boats. They enjoyed community life.

But things have changed. It is idle to speculate as to whether the old days were better or more satisfying than the present. Living standards of today are part and parcel of our civilization. Only within the present generation have Newfoundlanders had other means of earning a living than by fishing, and still 50 per cent of our people are dependent upon the product of the sea. Only in very recent years, with the development of quick freezing and canning, has there been a means of preserving the product other than by salting. With the rapid increase of population on the North American continent, and the more palatable forms in which fish can be preserved, the prolific supplies of wide variety along our coast will, to my mind, cause a very great change in the economic wealth of the province of Newfoundland. It will not come over night. It will occur as rapidly as modern methods of transportation and distribution to the consumers of fresh and frozen fish are developed. That development is under way, and our fishing industry will, in the not distant future, come into its own. Newfoundland capital and Newfoundland labour are bringing about this change right now. Within

the last eight years or so, ten million dollars—mostly local capital—have been invested in new processing plants and refrigerated transportation in the province.

We are greatly encouraged by the active interest that the federal Department of Fisheries is taking in the problem of the rehabilitation of our fishing industry. I cannot think of any other form of assistance that can be rendered to the Province of Newfoundland that will produce such lasting benefits in the economic life of our people. It is a fortunate circumstance that the technical services of that department are undergoing great development at this early stage of our entrance into the dominion.

The Province of Newfoundland is not standing aside and allowing the federal government to put things right in this adjustment period. It is bravely striving to set its house in order. Surveys of potential resources are being actively undertaken; finances of the province are being used to give an impetus to industrial development, and local private capital is being invested to a substantial degree. Many of the manufacturing establishments, which produce a wide variety of goods for local use, and employ several thousand workers, have met the impact of competition from the larger plants of the other provinces man-fashion by modernizing and fighting their way through. What is needed is that public facilities and services, which are a federal responsibility, be brought up to date in the quickest possible time. These are complementary to industrial progress. It is true that expenditure for defence which puts a great strain on public finance is of paramount importance. Nevertheless, in this transitional period it is urgent that Newfoundland advance along the path of progress of the other provinces, and that the economic level of the people of Newfoundland be lifted to that enjoyed by the people of the neighbouring provinces.

I have not the time, neither is this the occasion, to particularize at length on the details of such federal participation in these matters. There are, two points, however, as applying to industry—which subject is the main theme of this talk—that I might mention. They have been emphasized by the Premier of the province on more than one occasion. The Industrial Development Bank is, I understand, prevented under its charter from rendering assistance to the fishing industry. I wonder why! Surely, so vital an industry, one with such tremendous future possibilities under modernized methods, should not be debarred from the operations of