

*The Address—Mr. Applewhaite*

hope in some small way to contribute to a continuation of that confidence, but I remind the government that such a continuation will depend to a large extent on their continuing to deal with the many local problems of the Skeena district, as well as the problems of the country as a whole, in an intelligent, sympathetic and encouraging manner. As far as our local problems are concerned, I propose to assist the government in dealing with them in that way; and further, as best I may, to insist upon their being dealt with as I know they deserve to be.

Before proceeding further may I offer my humble congratulations to the mover and seconder of the resolution we are now debating. Their constituents will read with real pride the many favourable comments their speeches have evoked. While I may be laying myself open to the charge of painting the lily, I should like also to thank and commend the right hon. Prime Minister on the fair, full, frank and comprehensive review he gave us this afternoon and evening.

Now, Mr. Speaker, without apology or hesitation I propose to take advantage of the time-honoured custom of using this debate as an opportunity to tell this house a little about the district I am trying to represent. The Skeena district of British Columbia is an empire in itself. I am not going to compare its size with that of some provinces or countries, but if I were to do so the comparison might be surprising. Skeena extends over nine degrees of latitude, from 51 north to 60 north. At a rough estimate it covers about 164,000 square miles, and I believe is the second largest dominion electoral district. Incidentally, this would not be such a difficult district for its member to cover if he could go so far and say, "From here on there are no residents, so I need go no further". It just happens that there are settlements in the remotest corners of the district; Lower Post in the extreme northeast, Bennett on the White Pass and Yukon railway on the extreme northwest; Allison Harbour on the very southern tip, the Queen Charlotte islands on the west and Endako on the eastern border.

That is not only a very large district; it is one of increasing importance to the country. Ours is one of the finest mineral areas in Canada, still barely scratched yet, with a marvellous record of production to our credit. We have one of Canada's major fishing industries which has contributed greatly to the world's food supply for many years. Our timber resources are extensive; not only do we supply many parts of the world with lumber and poles, we are also the source of supply for at least two of Canada's major

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paper mills. Agriculture in Skeena is a small industry compared with some other parts of Canada, yet it is still an important factor in our economic life. We are now becoming the scene of industrial activity. Many hon. members know of the hydroelectric potentialities of the Skeena district which at this moment are of real interest to some of the world's leading industries.

It is lack of time, not of material, that causes me to end the list there. In my constituency is the famous little gold mining town of Atlin, and the lake and district of the same name. Early in 1898 Fritz Miller, a German, and Kenneth McLaren, a Canadian, left the Klondyke trail at Bennett and travelled on the ice across Taku Arm and Atlin lake. I am much more interested in the present and future—the immediate future—of this district than in its past, but there is always a certain amount of interest in the origin and discovery of new districts. The discovery of gold in the Atlin country by Miller and McLaren resulted in an influx of between five and ten thousand miners and tenderfeet; and from that day to this gold seeking and gold recovering in that district have never entirely ceased. Even today Transcontinental Resources and others are operating on a large scale. Atlin has a great deal of production ahead of it yet. Atlin is also a beauty spot; a district not unlike the Kootenays, with a series of lakes running north and south, it provides a spot of scenic beauty unexcelled anywhere in the world. Even the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) would admit that were he to visit Atlin.

This government is to be highly commended for the part it played, together with the provincial government, in building a road from the Alcan highway into Atlin last year. Atlin will become a mecca for the wise angler and big game hunter. I sincerely hope the time is very near when the government will see fit to reopen the customs port of entry for aeroplanes there. The lake is the largest and most beautiful in British Columbia. Given the publicity and the transportation it deserves, the Atlin area may well become the most important tourist and recreation centre in western Canada.

Among the many outstanding attractions of the Skeena district is its large number of lakes, large and small. The names of some of them may be familiar to some hon. members: Babine, Takla, Francois, Ootsa and literally hundreds of others. These lakes lie mainly due north from Tweedsmuir park, and centre on one of the grandest fishing and hunting districts imaginable, covering thousands of square miles. As might be expected