

The Budget—Mr. Dinsdale

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that there is a basis in fact for the continuing western agrarian protest. The western voice is weak politically with the result that the party in power, particularly if it is in power for a long period of time, always tends to become the prisoner of the two central provinces. In terms of representation you find the bulk of support of Ontario and Quebec going to the party in power. If I have time I should also like to deal with industrial development. If you compare the interest in the St. Lawrence seaway with the lack of interest in the Saskatchewan dam there is quite a difference, and there is also the fact of the continuing loss of population from the west. When the Minister of Trade and Commerce made that statement in Winnipeg I believe it showed that he has been taken in by the popular legend and myth of current Canadian development which suggests that the west is very rapidly catching up with the east. This might be true from the standpoint of the prophetic future but it certainly is not true at the present time. I want to present certain statistics to illustrate that point. I have before me some statistics dealing with the jobs that have been created in manufacturing industries since 1945. Forty-four per cent of these jobs have been created in Ontario, in Quebec 35 per cent, British Columbia 7 per cent, Manitoba 4 per cent, Nova Scotia 3 per cent, Alberta 3 per cent, and all others 4 per cent.

The amount of investment in manufacturing follows a similar pattern. Out of a total of \$3,400 million, Ontario has \$1,655 million or 48.7 per cent; Quebec has \$880 million or 25.9 per cent; British Columbia \$306 million or 9 per cent; Alberta \$153 million or 4.5 per cent, and all other Canadian provinces \$406 million or 11.9 per cent. If we look at the situation from a slightly different standpoint, that of the establishment of new plants, we find that up to 1952 there have been 1,500. Forty per cent, or 626, have been established in Quebec, 60 per cent of which are in and around Montreal. One-third have been established in Ontario, namely 504, 40 per cent of which are in the Toronto area. That of course emphasizes that the west is still far behind so far as the establishment of new industries is concerned. Ontario and Quebec still have just about the same share of the country's manufacturing production as they did in 1931. They have about 80 per cent; British Columbia has 8 per cent; the prairies 8 per cent and the maritimes about 4 per cent. There was a significant change during the war which brought the prairies up to nearly 10 per cent of the total in 1946, but central Canada has since re-established its position as the producer of four-fifths of the country's manufactured goods.

There are actually fewer jobs in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan than there were in 1946. I think these figures demonstrate that what we call the agrarian protest is quite justified. Nevertheless the west is progressing. The names of Lynn Lake in Manitoba, Uranium City in Saskatchewan, Leduc in Alberta and Kitimat in British Columbia are well known in Canada and other parts of the world.

I want to emphasize that this progress is largely due to the activities of private corporations in the western area. If I had time I could point to some developments in my own city which are all promoted by private companies and that have had very little encouragement, actually, from, for example, the Department of Defence Production. I merely mention that when the small defence industries branch was set up Brandon organized a Brandon pool and hoped to receive stimulus to its industrial development from participation in defence production. Because of the concentration and centralization in the central provinces there was not too much of a boost given to our efforts in this regard.

To bring my remarks to a conclusion, the situation that faces Canada at the present time as we pass through an era of transition demands more than a laissez-faire approach to the problem. It is not sufficient to say that eventually everything will work out for the best in the best of all possible worlds. When the member for Spadina (Mr. Croll) was speaking this afternoon on the excellent work of the combines investigation branch it occurred to me that he might turn the combines investigators loose in investigating this government; because I think it is one of the biggest monopolies that we have in any area of activity in this country.

As I have said before I think that big government, monopolistic government, is a much greater danger than any form of big business, or any other bigness. The hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell) has put forward again the idea of having an independent committee or commission to investigate government efficiency after the fashion of the Hoover commission in the United States. I think that this idea has merit in dealing with the problem to which I have just referred.

We must do more than rest on our laurels. Canada has had a great past. We have made tremendous strides since the war years. We have been amazingly fortunate and lucky, located as we are on the peace side of the conflicts that have occurred during the first part of this century in Europe. But we cannot expect our phenomenal good luck to continue forever. We must deserve it. During the war superhuman effort was made in the