

Rural Development

Municipal regrouping must also be promoted to counterbalance the large centres and to enable them to secure the equipment and the services required for desirable development.

The dispersion of industry also represents a most urgent problem. This dispersion must be remedied by putting a premium on amalgamation, reconversion, plant building, to be paid automatically and directly to the contractor who creates employment, and thus emphasize premiums on employment instead of premiums on unemployment.

Additional assistance should also be given generously to equip and organize urban services in centres likely to bring about industrial development.

● (8:50 p.m.)

The establishment of regional industrial development organizations should be promoted to regroup contractors and companies, to distribute information concerning government services on imports and exports. Surveys through advanced projects should also be undertaken to reduce investment risks by contractors.

Employees have well attended training courses, and it may be the most interesting indication to observe the dynamism of those people in the underdeveloped areas and to see how interested they are when the slightest hope of improving their lot is given to them, and the efforts and the sacrifice to which they will readily agree for their own development and for the greater general development of their environment.

Everyone understands today the problem of agriculture cannot be solved unless that economic stability is arrived at throughout the territory, because a farmer needs that marketing; he needs urban centres growing within his territory which become a market for his products; he needs in many cases to find non-agricultural or seasonal work in industries which could help him to round out his income and make it possible for him to earn a decent living for his family. That is what I call meeting the cost of progress.

Our territory is very well endowed with assets and possibilities. Father Lebrét said that we have a lot to learn from what we call underdeveloped countries. Such is the case for the areas whose fundamental qualities and assets must be revalorized and which must meet the challenge of our ancestors who wanted to make of those 30 acres of ice and snow the second most industrialized country in the world and the one with the highest standard of living.

The Prime Minister of Canada said:

In Canada, the pressures come from the north and south and not from the east and west, because our economic, social and geographic regional limits lie in the north and south. We have refused to accept the dictates of nature, economics and geography. We have built in the northern part of our continent a country which spreads from one ocean to the other and from the southern border to the Arctic ocean. Very few people in the world could have done that.

Well, we took up that challenge as a country. It is also true when it comes to a province; it is also true when it comes to a region. We have always wanted to take up a challenge to build a country. I cannot see why today we should give up those deep aspirations and keep only to what is understood, what gets along by itself, leaving the outlying areas to their lot under the pretext that it would be asking too much from the people to develop the whole territory.

The people want to take up that challenge. In the past, no one could see any possibility in the swamps of western Canada, and today it is the bread-basket of the world; important natural resources were discovered there and they are our pride and prosperity.

If there exists a territory with natural resources still untouched, with impressive water resources, which, on account of its location, is the doorway to the Atlantic markets and opens on Europe and America, it is indeed the lower St. Lawrence.

If there is a secluded part of the country where the people have kept unsullied the qualities of the great builders, and among other things an indomitable will to develop their own territory, if there is a country with a promising future, it is indeed the lower St. Lawrence.

Such a promising future is just beginning for this area, the cradle of our civilization, and the saying "Go East, Young Man" will undoubtedly be added to the traditional "Go West".

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Northumberland.

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, along with the other members who already have spoken in support of this fund for economic and social development in rural areas, I should like to say that properly administered I think it can be a very excellent thing for the farming communities of our country. I see that in this bill provision is made for a fund of \$50 million and that the