

which we willingly assumed, to allow future generations to live and exist.

Such is the question, Sir, on everyone's lips. For my part, although realizing the absolute necessity that exists for us not to exceed our revenues, I am one of those who believe that economy carried to excess is equivalent to folly. With many others I believe that one must not think or hope to pay or materially reduce in the present generation, our national debt. I am one of those who believe that by developing our natural resources, by increasing our population, by affording the chance to the present generation to exist, we shall in a nearby future, attain a more tangible result than by stifling all initiative, or raising the cry of distress and disaster.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, for having allowed myself to drift to such thoughts, but I reflect here the views of my electors and I think I am performing my duty as a good citizen by expressing my absolute confidence in the future, and firmly believing in the happy destinies of this beautiful country of ours.

I had no intention, Sir, to touch upon all the important questions which are submitted for our consideration in the Speech from the Throne; but before closing my remarks, allow me to bring before the House the material needs of this beautiful county which I have the honour to represent. Back in my seclusion after having given two years of study to local problems which especially affect our lovely region of the lower St. Lawrence river, I was able to ascertain that the economic life of our beautiful counties of Rimouski and Matane had as its basis three great factors, our forest industries, agriculture and our transportation routes.

Our forest industries have, of late years, taken such an impulse, that we can say with pride that Matane and Rimouski surpass, by the example they set and the development they attained, all other regions of our beautiful province of Quebec. Would you believe it Sir, in addition to the five large companies that operate in those counties, there exists another one which itself alone, works on the south shore 1,100 square miles of limits, exports to England and the United States about 30,000,000 feet of manufactured lumber; would you ever think that, through concessions granted by the provincial government, vast timber limits on the north shore, concessions situated opposite to Rimouski and Matane, at a distance of 30 miles on the opposite shore of our beautiful river, where hardly five years ago there was but a wilderness, now

villages and immense lumber camps have sprung up, such as Shelter Bay, Godbout, Franklin, Bersimis, Sault-au-Cochon, Portneuf and many others, you will understand the great importance of attracting to us the immense trade which is bound to follow. Rimouski and Matane are the natural outlets of this trade, and already we possess almost all the necessary facilities to provide for it.

As to farming, Sir, nature has almost forced us to specialize in one industry alone, owing not only to the nature of our soil, but especially, because we have in abundance and in its natural state fertilizers of sea-weeds. We produce yearly, in the county of Rimouski, more than 2,000,000 bushels of potatoes, and thanks to the initiative of the provincial government which has undertaken to build in each parish situated along the Canadian National and the gulf and terminus railways, heated storage, supplied with the necessary sorting equipment, we shall therefore at last, be able to realize what had become to us of primary necessity to enter into competition with the other provinces and take advantage of the benefits of foreign markets.

However, an obstacle exists in the realization of this dream: it is our transportation rates and this transportation problem, owing to our geographical situation is for us a vital question. We are located at the tail end of the western markets and at the head of the eastern markets. The freight rates which we are forced to pay are so prohibitive that it is almost impossible for us to deal with our local markets and still less with the foreign markets. We do not ask for special privileges, but we are glad to notice that the government has thought this question to be of paramount importance and we have the firm hope that the needs of our region will be considered on an equal footing with those of other parts of the country.

I leave, Mr. Speaker, to hon. gentlemen who are better qualified than I am the task of developing the other points of much importance, contained in the Speech from the Throne. However, allow me to state that this sessional programme that the government submits to parliament, is the logical continuation and reasoned development of the Liberal manifesto of 1921. It is a programme of harmony, union, peace and good understanding. It is legislation beneficial to the masses without consideration to sectionalism, divisions, territories and classes. It is a programme for the people, the principles and development of which have been submitted to the electors of my county and relying on the approval of my electors having absolute