

In Halifax particularly I noticed the possibilities of that great city, one of the finest harbours in the world, and that must mean something to the national life of this community. And beautiful Prince Edward Island; I always refer to it as a little spot of heaven. I do not think there is any more beautiful place on the face of the earth. But I can appreciate something of the feeling of being cut off from the rest of the community. Therefore I say to the maritimers that their greatest problem is one of transportation. As a member of one of the central provinces I would say, with all sincerity, that if we can lend a hand together to do something with respect to the equalization of freight rates and greater opportunities for the maritimes—because, after all, we owe a lot to them; they are a part of confederation; they are entitled to our best consideration—we should do so in order that they may, in turn, develop their wealth of resources of which I have spoken, and I have only barely touched on them.

I shall never forget my journey through the beautiful Annapolis valley where at that time they were harvesting millions of bushels of the finest apples in the world, and on through the Saint John river valley in New Brunswick. It would be worth while if hon. members could enjoy the same opportunity to visit that which is part and parcel of our great country, the three important provinces down by the sea, that we might, in turn, have a greater appreciation of each other and of each other's problems and lend a hand so that they, too, will share in what is considered the prosperity of the central provinces.

I am not going to labour the point that they were robbed as a result of confederation, but I certainly do not feel that they got entirely a square deal. Those of us in this parliament and those of us who are interested in the welfare of this dominion from the point of view of national unity and otherwise and its general prosperity should do our best to correct these wrongs.

Why should we be paying subsidies or imposing high tariffs on certain protected products when the same might be manufactured in our own country and particularly with the ingenuity, enterprise and enthusiasm of the maritimers? I feel that much of their economy could be entrusted to themselves if they were only given a fair and square opportunity to compete with the rest of Canada.

Therefore, on this occasion, I should like to pay my warmest tribute tonight to the people whom I met in the maritimes and tell them how much I admire their great provinces and how much confidence I have in the enthu-

siasm and ambition of their people. I believe it is up to us, who to some extent probably enjoy more physical advantages, to share those advantages with those who may be less favoured in the other parts of our dominion and at least bring to them an opportunity to enjoy an equalization in transportation rates and an improvement in transportation facilities, so that together we may play our part, not only in the onward march of civilization, but in the future development of this country in order that national unity will become a reality and not a myth; that we together may make Canada that country which we have indicated, by words if not by deed, we believe is possible for its people. But I cannot visualize a great Canada if some parts of the country are left neglected and are not given opportunities to develop themselves according to their own abilities and to enjoy the advantages they otherwise would enjoy. I really appreciate this opportunity to pay my compliments to the members from the maritimes and particularly to the maritimers themselves, and to say that I am wholeheartedly in favour of anything that will benefit their lot within confederation.

Mr. A. L. SMITH (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of entering into this competition which was started by the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Brooks), followed by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Isnor), the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg (Mr. Winters) and the hon. member for Grey North (Mr. Case) with respect to the physical aspects of the maritime provinces, the wonderful character of the men, the beauty of the women, the health of the children and all that sort of thing. I know the Annapolis valley in apple time is wonderful; I know the Bras d'Or lakes are tremendous, but I am inclined to come back to the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) and say that a lot of these things you just cannot eat and they do not buy you a great deal of clothing. Beauty is an amazing thing to a man who has a full stomach but does not taste so well to the man who is hungry. Therefore I intend to devote myself to only one aspect of this picture, namely the situation in the coal mines in the maritime provinces. What is the story? We had a strike which, according to all the newspapers—and it has never been denied—cost these miners \$5 million. We of this House of Commons have been asked, and have responded in a very humble way in doing a little bit down there, but it does not even mean a drop in a very large bucket.