

*The Address—Mr. McIvor*

**Mr. Daniel McIvor (Fort William):** I count it a great honour to represent a constituency like Fort William, a constituency that is so progressive and so up to date in everything. When you ride in one of the trolley busses in Fort William and then start out on a trip in a streetcar in Ottawa you hope that Ottawa will soon come in line with Fort William.

I admired the Prime Minister's choice of speakers to move and second the address in reply to the speech from the throne. He combined the progressive intelligence of the west and the steady wisdom of the east. I think hon. members will agree with me that the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew), the leader of the C.C.F. party (Mr. Coldwell) and the leader of the Social Credit party (Mr. Low) never spoke with more reserve and intelligence. I do not know whether they were afraid or just careful. I also noted that the Prime Minister showed remarkable reserve, but once in a while the Irish in him came bubbling out, which was a great thrill to a man like me.

I was greatly interested to see the prominence given to old age pensions in the speech from the throne. I was criticized last year for not voting for the resolution of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). Under the same set of circumstances I would act in the same way because I am not going to vote want of confidence in the government when I can "beef" all I wish to in caucus.

The minister has shown wisdom in bringing in a resolution dealing with old age pensions at the present time. I have always been in favour of abolition of the means test. I think there should be no means test; but wisdom does not die with me. I am not the end of all wisdom and I do not know everything about it. So far as I can see, the means test should be removed, but when we are in committee we shall have an opportunity to give our reasons. On the order paper the following resolution appears in the name of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin):

That a joint committee of both houses of parliament be appointed to examine and study the operation and effects of existing legislation of the parliament of Canada and of the several provincial legislatures with respect to old age security; similar legislation in other countries; possible alternative measures of old age security for Canada, with or without a means test for beneficiaries, including plans based on contributory insurance principles; the probable cost thereof and possible methods of providing therefor; the constitutional and financial adjustments, if any, required for the effective operations of such plans and other related matters:

Then he goes on to show how he wants this done. I think this is wise. If any hon. member has anything that he thinks would help the old age pensioner he should bring it to this committee.

I should like to pay my tribute to the officials in Toronto who administer this act. I do not care to what party they belong, they are giving a splendid service. They have given me some very fine thrills in the form of answers to requests I have made. They are administering the act in an honest way. I shall have more to say on this subject when the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Little) brings in his resolution, because I intend to second it.

When I went home after the last session a good many people called me up and interviewed me. They asked me what had happened to the crime comics bill. One school principal said that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) must be a generous man to take a bill from the opposition and incorporate it in the Criminal Code. I said: "He is not only a generous man, he is intelligent, notwithstanding those who think he was a little bit slow in bringing in the report on the combines act." I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that there are other men in this house who are also slow. Some of those on the other side of the house were just a little bit slow last year. I am slow sometimes, and a little dull in thinking; but when we keep at it we get there in the end.

I should like to tell the Minister of Justice that we at the lakehead appreciate the service that he has given to those children and to those teachers and other workers who are trying to make good Canadians out of our boys and girls.

We have at the lakehead a number of paper mills. Last year I made the statement that we have the largest paper mill in Canada. Let me prove that now by saying that not only have we the largest paper mill, but it is manned by men who have made it the mill with the greatest production record. In that plant we have another mill, not as large as the first one I mentioned; but, taken together, these two mills have the greatest production of any two paper mills in Canada. I know there are plants with more mills, but I would take off my hat to the men who man these. They work harmoniously and, I am told, are well paid. An hon. member who occupies a front seat in this chamber is president of that company. He has exercised his own wisdom and intelligence in its operations, and is doing a good job.

At the lakehead we have a growing interest in farming. It is all very well to make a statement, but it is much better to offer proof. We have potato clubs of 500 bushels to the acre; and if anyone would care to look at the picture I now hold in my hand he would see the picture of a bachelor who raised 733 bushels to the acre of Chippewa potatoes. Is there any other man in the house who will