

*The Address—Mr. Macquarrie*

are no oil deposits there, nor are we to blame if we are not blessed with iron and coal deposits. We do not have Ungavas and Kitimats, but that is not the fault of the people. We lack the ingredients of modern industrialisation. Yet we are Canadians, entitled to the benefits of this great and beautiful country.

We feel that down through the years we have made our contribution in many and, indeed, all phases of Canadian life. But we have waited long. We have been hopeful that our position would be recognized and our peculiar situation appreciated. With what result? Last spring, just at the time when our province was faced with a serious deficit, we heard the interesting news from Ottawa that due to a strange miscalculation Prince Edward Island had, of all things, been overpaid by the dominion treasury and was therefore in debt to the tune of almost \$1,250,000.

How did this strange mathematical blunder come about? It came about because our population rise was gravely miscalculated. Why was it miscalculated? It was because many of the young people of our province found it necessary to go to other parts of Canada and so, piling Pelion upon Ossa, we not only lost a great many of our people at the productive and energetic period of their lives, but we had to pay for it on top of that.

When the representatives of the provincial government came to Ottawa to treat for terms, indeed on the eve of an election when one might have thought that such a time was propitious for satisfaction, what did we find? An agreement was made whereby with abundant generosity the government of that time agreed that Prince Edward Island might be given this benefit: they could pay the money back in five equal instalments. I may say that this generous gesture was not overlooked by the people of our province when the opportunity came to express themselves on this particular attitude taken towards Canada's smallest province.

Now our people were definitely influenced and impressed by the program of the Conservative party. They were convinced that here was a truly national policy which would take cognizance of the special problems of the maritimes and of the province of Prince Edward Island and would build, develop and foster a truly national Canadian economy. We have the feeling, and it is a justifiable one, that in such a development program our part of the country will not continue to be a Cinderella in relation to the total Canadian federation. We maritimers—and the de luxe maritimers of Prince Edward Island, if I may use that modest expression—are convinced that much can be

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

done in the way of self help and I quite agree with the Premier of Nova Scotia when he said that the time is opportune for us to attack our own peculiar and pressing problems, but at the same time we require—and I think the economy of Canada generally requires—a great deal more attention to those problems which the advancing technological developments of this country have made pressingly acute for the maritime provinces.

It has often distressed me that when we talk about maritime problems we are often answered in terms of economics. We are told about the distances and the lack of markets and the lack of raw materials. I do not accept these economic arguments as being sufficient. This country of ours was built in defiance not only of geography but of the laws of economics. Through political action and by a union of people with a high dedication of purpose we took an entity which was a contradiction of terms as far as a nation was concerned and built out of it a united country. In other words, the laws of economics did not always prevail; government action and government leadership were necessary. We have only to look at many aspects of the Canadian economy—how we built our railways and establish our tariff policies and so on—to understand clearly that the laws of economics were not always followed in the creation of the Canadian nation. To the members of the Liberal party as they compile their list of reasons for catastrophe I offer them gratis this one particular item as far as the episode in Prince Edward Island is concerned. We look forward to a better deal in our province and we feel that our needs and difficulties will be met.

It is not my intention to speak on issues of a purely provincial nature. This is a national parliament and I think it is our function and duty as members thereof to deal with issues which bear on the whole of the nation. There are, however, matters which are very acute to us and which have a definite bearing on the development of the whole country.

We in Prince Edward Island have problems in the field of agriculture. We have heard a good deal about wheat, fish and poultry and we are interested in all of these things but we have an important crop too, the potato. Now, it is one virtue of our people that we can apparently produce a better potato than any other part of the world as any agriculture market list will show.

**Mr. McIvor:** No, Ireland.