

*The Address—Mr. Coates*

of the throne speech is an amendment to the Atlantic Development Board Act to give the board enough money so it could do something that would have a profound influence on the future of the people in the Atlantic provinces. Certainly we are not going to get this from the board having regard to the way it is set up today. I predict that if the board continues with no more money than is available to it at the present time, and makes grants similar in nature to the one made to the province of New Brunswick, it will be bankrupt by the end of 1964, just as the hopes of the people of the Atlantic provinces will be bankrupt from the point of view of the promises that were made by the Liberal party as to what they would do for them if they were elected in 1963.

The other important thing is the fact that the type of grants that the board has made is not going to have a significant effect on the economy of the Atlantic provinces or the lives of the people there. We said last session that the amendment which was proposed to make the amount \$100 million was not worth while. At one time this amount might have seemed rather significant, but there is no project that can be undertaken today in the Atlantic provinces for \$100 million, nor any five projects at \$20 million each that will have a profound effect on the economy of our area.

When we look at the unemployment figures, we are told that unemployment is not a national problem today. It is said to be a regional problem. Well, it is a national problem for the 500,000 who are unemployed across Canada, whether or not the Liberals say so. They sure as the devil said it often enough when we were in office. I say that whether it be a national or a regional problem, action has to be taken in our area that will give our people the opportunity to move forward with the rest of Canada. We were giving them that opportunity when we were in office, but that is not happening any more.

Nowhere do we know this better than in Nova Scotia. Nowhere has it been displayed better than in Nova Scotia. This government abandoned the frigate program. This would have been all right if the government had had some alternative program to put forward that would have provided the same amount of employment for our people. There was no alternative, unless you call the closing of the Point Edward naval base an alternative, or unless you call mothballing 33 ships, most of them stationed in Halifax, an alternative. This is the type of thing that has been happening to our area since this government took office. It is no wonder we have been concerned about our future since April 8,

[Mr. Coates.]

1963, and are becoming more and more concerned as the days pass. There seems to be nothing coming forward that is going to help us the way the Diefenbaker government was so willing to give us help year after year and session after session.

There is a program, Mr. Speaker, which I consider would be of tremendous benefit to the whole of the Atlantic area if it were undertaken. I refer to the harnessing of the tides in the bay of Fundy. I have a resolution concerning this matter on the order paper, and no doubt it will be debated this session. I do not intend, therefore, to spend a great deal of time during this debate explaining the potential of this project. I should like to say that it has been recommended as the type of project that is feasible and reasonable, and which will have a considerable impact on the economy of the maritime provinces. It is a project which was recommended to the government by the premier of New Brunswick.

**Mr. Groos:** Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question? I should like to ask the hon. member if he would suggest that the province of British Columbia relieve the eastern provinces of the burden of the heavy water plant that has just been established there.

**Mr. Coates:** First of all I may say that it was the Nova Scotia government that located the heavy water plant in Nova Scotia, so the hon. member had better talk to them. In addition to that, the maritime provinces gave to British Columbia their premier, so what more can they ask?

I do suggest that this government has been treating the harnessing of the bay of Fundy tides with contempt. They have not moved to any appreciable degree in this direction since they took office. Oh, they were anxious to get the Columbia river treaty settled. They were most anxious to see the Hamilton falls project under way. But when it comes to the bay of Fundy tides and the expenditure of a minimum amount of \$325 million in our area, there is great hesitancy. Is it because the bay of Fundy tides are located in the maritime provinces, a part of Canada the Liberal government never really pays much attention to, a part of Canada that the present Minister of Finance wanted to depopulate, if possible? Is this a continuing policy of this government?

Let us look at another field of endeavour; let us look at agriculture. There, more than anywhere else, you can see the complete, flagrant disregard of the rights of the farmers of eastern Canada to fair treatment. We have been hounding this government with questions for a year asking when the feed grain policy