

*The Address—Mr. Fulton*

of Sir E. P. Tache of a hundred years ago, nor the vision of Sir Wilfrid Laurier of fifty years ago, nor the visions which inspired the fathers of confederation. Our population cannot by any stretch of the imagination be said to be even approaching, let alone equalling, that of the large empires of the old world.

We may be permitted our present-day vision of what Canada should be, even while criticizing the government for having failed to get further along the road to meeting the older visions. Indeed, not only must we face stern reality in the fact that Canada is committed to these obligations which we have been discussing, but we should supplement that stern necessity by a vision of our own of what this country could be in the future. If I may in very general terms paint a picture of what I see for Canada, I see her as a nation of not less than fifty million people, all profitably employed in a well-balanced economy; not an inferior or lesser partner, but becoming over the years the very centre and the senior partner in the British commonwealth of nations, which thus becomes again a real force for peace in the world. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that that is our manifest destiny. In support of that portion of the picture, I draw on no less an authority than the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) who, when speaking in Toronto to the Empire club last week, outlined in very definite terms his concept of the importance and the position which the British commonwealth of nations can play in the world today. He said:

Everything possible should be done to maintain the British commonwealth—this greatest agency for peace in the world.

I quote that merely as a reference to show it is apparent that both sides of the house share this view of the extreme importance of maintaining the integrity and the reality of the commonwealth.

As I say, in my view, over the course of the next few years, if we bring about those conditions which make it possible for Canada to fulfil her destiny, this country will become in fact the senior partner and the centre of that commonwealth. But it is unfortunately true that as yet we have barely made a start in terms of what could be accomplished in respect to the development of our country. It is in the light of the tasks which confront us, the stern necessity of meeting the obligations which we have assumed as well as the desirability of realizing the vision which we may all dream, that I urge it as the duty of the government to plan for the development of our resources, to encourage the settlement of our country and to help provide the means by which men can be enabled to work on

the materials which are to hand. It is the responsibility of government, in addition to formulating an immigration policy and pressing on with it, to embark upon such programs as soil conservation, irrigation, flood control, power development, and immigration and settlement generally, to bring men and materials together in this great country.

There are a number of such projects along these lines which immediately come to mind. For instance, there is the tremendous St. Lawrence seaway project. At the moment—I am delighted to see that we are committed to getting along with the development of the navigation side of that project. That is a step which all of us must support, although it is unfortunate that the United States is not going to be associated with us. However, at the same time that we embark upon the seaway project, we should give our attention to the development of the power resources of that area, which would be another means of contributing to the development of Canada and to meeting our commitments to our North Atlantic allies.

There is the South Saskatchewan river project, of which we have heard a great deal in the house lately. I am not qualified to discuss all the implications or the possibilities of that project, but I am sure that enough has been said here to establish that the benefits in terms of additional resources and the development of our economy would be tremendous. It is to be regretted that the government has temporized and delayed and made of this apparently a political issue rather than approaching it with a spirit of vigour and determination as a national obligation to contribute to the development, the growth and the rounding out of the economy of our prairie regions.

Then, moving west, we have the potentialities of the Columbia river and the Fraser river basins. The Fraser river is the one which interests me particularly. It has been said by those who have made a study of this matter that the Fraser river represents the last and greatest area of undeveloped power potential in the settled portion of Canada. Those of us who know the river will agree with that statement of fact. That tremendous body of water at the present time in its journey of some 850 miles to the sea from its source is virtually unharnessed. About all that has been done so far to make use of the Fraser is to make a beginning on the problem of facilitating the passage of the salmon from the sea to the spawning grounds through these turbulent waters. When you think of what it could mean in terms of power development, with an integrated program of irrigation and flood control as well, it simply defies imagination.