

promise, or implied contract, has been entirely shattered, has been blown to the four winds of heaven, then it is quite time that somebody should step in—it is quite as much if not more in the interest of the Bankers' Association themselves to step in—and see that such safeguards are imposed on these institutions as shall prevent a recurrence of what has happened. I sincerely trust this will be done.

I will not further delay the House with any views I may have regarding the matters set out in the Speech from the Throne. As I stated in the beginning, when these various measures come up I may have an opportunity to discuss them and express my views upon them. I have only this to say, in conclusion, honourable gentlemen, that once more I plead—and I shall never grow tired of preaching it—that there should be more and more unification. People talk foolishly about the separation of the East from the West. Can it be imagined for one moment that one part of Canada can serve without the other, that either alone is sufficient, that the East is not as necessary for the West as the West is for the East? We must build up a stronger nationalism, a stronger Canadian spirit, and if we inculcate this spirit among our people there will not be the outgoing that there is to-day and Canada will be, as she must be, one of the great nations.

Hon. J. L. COTE (translation): Honourable gentlemen: It is not without diffidence and much feeling that I rise for the first time in this Chamber to second the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, which has been so eloquently moved by my honourable colleague from Lambton (Hon. Mr. Pardee). In these precincts, made illustrious by the presence of men chosen from among the most eminent in our country, I recognize that my good-will alone can compensate for my lack of talent, and I rely entirely, honourable gentlemen, upon your indulgence while I briefly, very briefly, acquit myself of the task which my leaders have entrusted to me.

Permit me to say in the first place that my previous occupations, together with a recent serious illness, have not been the best preparation for parliamentary eloquence. Leaving in youth the province of Quebec, the cradle of my family, I was in turn surveyor, pioneer, explorer, following in the mountains and on the prairie the footsteps of the first discoverers, each day adding to my knowledge of my country and my love for it. In this respect I was but imitating the example set by eight generations of ancestors who had laboured on Canadian soil, and even

shed their blood in its defence at critical moments in our history.

In the course of time I ceased my wanderings to establish a home in the heart of Alberta, that vast province situated on the summit of three of the great watersheds of North America, whose soil is immeasurably fertile and in whose subsoil lie immense deposits of coal and other minerals.

Our numerous rivers, fed by the snows of the Rocky Mountains, will furnish unlimited energy and a system of natural transportation which is destined to be of the greatest service in the economic distribution of our natural products, as well as in the maintenance of national unity.

Geographically the province of Alberta is situated 768 miles from the Pacific and 2,168 miles from the Atlantic. Its distance from the two oceans imposes upon its producing population high transportation costs, levying burdensome fixed charges on all property and cultivated land. In a word, it is a tax on every producer, a tax on every citizen in that vast area. This tax, known as the freight rate, has been considerably increased by the ill-advised expenditure of an enormous amount of capital. It is earnestly to be hoped, therefore, that the Government will do all in its power to reduce the serious inconveniences to us in the West due to the great distances which separate us from our markets.

Honourable gentlemen, I was lately re-reading the wonderful report of Sir Sandford Fleming and his colleagues on their explorations in the Northwest Territories at the time of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and I was astonished to observe that all the most optimistic predictions contained in that report have since been realized to the letter. That eminent engineer at the time pointed out the great fertility of the soil from the 49th parallel of latitude to the Peace River, and this is demonstrated to-day by the many fine farms established in that territory in Alberta. These farms last year yielded agricultural products to the value of about \$250,000,000, notwithstanding that prices were ridiculously low.

The report I have just mentioned called attention to the splendid quality of our cereals, and of this I cannot give you better proof than by quoting the prizes obtained by Alberta farmers at the last annual competition at the International Cereal Exposition of North America, held in Chicago. These may be summarized as follows:

1919—5 or 6 prizes.

1920—19 prizes, with 2 Grand Championships, one in oats, the other in peas.