

I note with particular gratification and pride that a native son of Saskatchewan, Mr. Justice T. C. Davis, has been appointed high commissioner to Australia. I am sure that in this capacity he will be a credit to Canada and will bring great distinction to himself.

I cannot commend the expressed intention, as mentioned in the speech from the throne, to bring in a bill to redistribute the representation in the House of Commons. As a result of extraordinary circumstances, largely resulting from the war, Saskatchewan stands to lose four members, according to the 1941 census. Even before the outbreak of war many young men and women of that province were drifting away from the farms and urban centres, looking for employment. On account of drought and prices of farm commodities, the sons and daughters of our farmers were discouraged; and lack of employment in the towns brought about a great exodus from Saskatchewan. I join with other hon. members in protesting against this bill being brought down at this time, for the reasons so splendidly outlined by the hon. member for Rosthern (Mr. Tucker).

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. GREGORY: Mr. Speaker, when the house rose at six o'clock I was referring to the great exodus of young people from Saskatchewan to look for employment. We have reason to believe that after this war is over there will be a return flow of population, and it would be most unfair to penalize Saskatchewan to the extent of four members during the next ten years.

May I say further in that connection that this exodus has been aggravated and accelerated by the policy of crowding all the industrial war effort of Canada into a small compass within what one might call a charmed ring in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. I have made frequent representations, and many other members from Saskatchewan have made frequent representations to ministers and departments asking for a fair share of the industrial war effort for Saskatchewan. I was pleased the other evening to hear the hon. member for Saskatoon City (Mr. Bence) speak along this line, and the hon. member for Rosthern and other hon. members have spoken to the same effect.

It may not be known that there are many spots in Saskatchewan particularly favoured by nature for the location of war industries.

Other hon. members may speak for themselves, but I prefer to speak of one particular location within my own constituency. I refer to the town of Lloydminster, which sits astride the fourth meridian line where the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta meet. It so happens that this town has developed a great industry in natural gas and crude oil. If I had the time this evening I should like to tell the house something of the proportions of these natural gas and crude oil resources. The power plant in the city of North Battleford which develops steam and electric energy to satisfy the needs of the town of Battleford and the city of North Battleford, as well as the airport in the immediate vicinity and a mental hospital which has buildings on both sides of the river and a population of three thousand, uses Lloydminster crude oil to heat the boilers.

May I tell the hon. member for Saskatoon City that if a gas pipe line were built from Lloydminster to his beautiful city, that city could be served with both light and heat as well as every village, town and city on the 200 miles between Lloydminster and Saskatoon, and the surrounding country on each side of the pipeline, and still Lloydminster would have an abundant supply of natural gas left over. What a magnificent site for a war industry, for that matter, any industry, to be established! It would be suitable for a flax mill, which is a war industry, an industrial alcohol plant, a synthetic rubber plant, a bone processing plant or a steel rolling mills. The northern half of Alberta and Saskatchewan is filled with abandoned farm machinery and other scrap steel which could be gathered together as salvage to keep a moderate sized steel rolling mills going at the town of Lloydminster. Again returning to the speech from the throne, I note:

A joint committee representative of the departments of agriculture of Canada and the United States has been agreed upon to coordinate the efforts of the two countries in the production of food for the united nations.

In this connection may I suggest that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) be appointed immediately as minister of food and be given full authority over the production of food in Canada. I assume that the price control board would still exist as a body with full authority to fix prices, but the appointing of the Minister of Agriculture as minister of food would naturally place in his hands the question of the classes of food most needed for our war effort. After giving him that authority as minister in charge of the production of food, the next logical step