

his party in this regard, who once went so far as to advocate a building for ballet dances and a national theatre of arts and sciences and so forth. If the hon. member will look up the record he will realize that his leader had a vision which the hon. member for Humboldt negated here to-night.

I rose to try to induce hon. members to look upon this not as a local area. I resent anybody calling it the city of Ottawa project, because I represent the best part of the Dominion of Canada, the area surrounding Ottawa. In Carleton county we do not need it as Ottawa does, but we can use it better than Ottawa can.

Mr. R. R. KNIGHT (Saskatoon City): I say at the outset that I am not opposed to the beautification of Ottawa, provided that it does not take too great a sum of money. It has been an inspiration to me to-night to listen to the poetic speech of the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie) and the less poetical but more witty speech of the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank). The Minister of Veterans Affairs even took us back to Greece and Rome, and with his permission I should like to follow him for the time being to those far distant places and to remind him that while the civilization of Athens, to which he referred, was probably an ideal one for some people, I cannot forget that it was built upon a class society. I point out to him that the fine things which he described were enjoyed by only one class of people, and that the civilization there was built by slaves, as were the buildings. I would also remind him that the civilization of Greece, boasting as it did these marvellous buildings, the Acropolis, the Stadia, was like Rome with its Coliseum, based upon the slave market, and that both these nations neglected their people. Their decay and fall are matters of history.

I might also remind the scholarly minister that if he knows his Horace—and I presume he does—he will recall that Horace had an idea of a better type of monument which might well be built by men.

Mr. IRVINE: Probably he lost his Horace.

Mr. KNIGHT: I do not think great buildings will ever take the place of that particular type of "monumentum." The hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Burton), who has been much maligned here to-night for his advocacy of a bath in Moose Jaw, did say something with which I heartily agree. He said, "Let us beautify the whole countryside." With that in mind, I wish to say something here because I think I should be out of order on any of the

items something which I have wanted to say in a public place for a long time, and I know of no more public place than this. He said, "Let us beautify the whole countryside." I should like to put it in reverse and say, let us cease to make it ugly. Some hon. members will have suspected already to what I refer. I want to speak of beautification and commercial signs, if I may mention the two things in the same breath. On coming to Ottawa I was interested, of course, in the beautification scheme for our national capital. I live down off the foot of Bank street, if that is the right way to describe it, and one day while going down there I saw some men just at this side of the railway subway tearing down an ugly clay bank. I thought to myself, "Here is some of the beautification of which I have heard; no doubt they are going to level this place up and plant grass and trees." Two or three days later, enough lumber, zinc and wire were brought there to make the heart of War Assets Corporation shudder, and some of these ugly signs were erected. I am quite sure they took enough lumber and other material to build, if not a cottage, at least a decent summer shelter.

On looking around the district, however, I realize that this particular sign is not too incongruous there after all. The shacks; the juke joints advertising soft drinks, the little restaurants with their loud and lurid signs advertising cigarettes of various kinds which will cure your sore throat—no, they do not look so bad in the city, where men generally have vitiated the scenery and the landscape. Now they are trying to bring nature back into the city by planting trees and grass and flowers. No; it is out in the open country, in the fields and the woods and upon the roadsides that these atrocities of signs are really incongruous. One gets outside the city and begins, shall I say, to be soothed by the soft green of the fields or the grey of the clouds; then he runs into a great sign, perhaps on the side of a hill near a little lake. Hon. members know the type of sign I mean, and it brings a jarring note into the whole landscape. Or you see the whole side of a barn—and I am astounded that any farmer would permit his barn to be used for this purpose—covered with a huge advertisement telling you to chew somebody's tobacco.

I merely wanted to say that in any beautification scheme for Ottawa—and I understand it is to extend some considerable distance beyond the city—I hope all this will be remembered. I would not vote a five-cent piece, if I may use that historic phrase, for the beautification scheme of any city that would allow along the highways contiguous to it, and, worse