

*The Address—Mr. Cruickshank*

genial colleague the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier), who knows how to say no better than any man in this house, is present. What might have been true of river bank erosion in the past is not true today. Those of us who come from the province of British Columbia, which as you know is a great timber country, would remind hon. members that we produce approximately 55 per cent of the soft timber produced in Canada. Naturally, in logging off that country as we have done in the past, we have changed the entire water course of the mighty Fraser river. In the old days it was said that it was a local matter, one either for the municipalities or for the province. But through you, Mr. Speaker, I want to submit to the Minister of Public Works that that principle no longer holds true; and I believe the same thing may be said with regard to the St. Lawrence. We as local taxpayers—and I know of no better word to use—are not capable of protecting our river banks from erosion. This is something which affects not only the lives and the homes of farmers and industry, but also affects navigation both on the St. Lawrence and on the Fraser rivers. I submit that it is of vital importance to the inhabitants along both these rivers—in exactly the same manner as it is important to the people in Saskatchewan that they have irrigation—that the larger course be pursued, and that the matter of river bank erosion be recognized as a federal matter and not be one confined to local taxation purposes.

I want to admit that in the past the federal government have been fair within my own riding, as I know they have in other ridings, to a certain extent. But I know that it is not realized, I am sorry to say, by my colleagues from my own province, how important it is to the province of British Columbia—not only to Fraser Valley but to the city of Vancouver—that the main navigable river on the Pacific coast is maintained as such; and that cannot be done unless some attention is paid to the matter not merely by the Department of Public Works but by what I have been given to understand is the more important body, namely the Department of Finance. Apparently certain boys over in that ivory tower do not realize or so far have not appreciated how important this matter can be.

Mr. Speaker, although I have until 6.15 in which to speak, I do not intend to take that long. As you will notice, I do not speak from notes; and I have never yet read a speech. I want to refer for just a moment to my friend the hon. member for Peace River (Mr.

Low)—I believe that is the riding he represents—in connection with his remarks and his apology for being opposed to the co-operative movement.

**Mr. Fair:** It was no apology.

**Mr. Shaw:** No apology at all.

**Mr. Fair:** Do not say that when he is not in the house. You know it is not right.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** I am glad to have some assistance from some of my friends from that district. If the hon. member for Peace River was not apologizing for his attack upon British Columbia Tree Fruits, I do not know what he was doing.

**Mr. Shaw:** He did not attack the British Columbia Tree Fruits, and you know it.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** May I say that British Columbia Tree Fruits, who happen to be the most representative body of agricultural distributors on the American continent outside of California, think it was an attack on them and have so stated publicly.

**Mr. Shaw:** That does not make it an attack; you know that too.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** The hon. member made this statement and he made it in my own riding. It is convenient to make statements at the time of an election when you hope to get a few votes. I hope the same statements are made in my riding again. Incidentally I want to say to my friends in that great province that I endeavoured, with little support from them, to get the pipe lines through a Canadian route, although I must admit support from them until the big stick apparently said: Thou shalt not speak; we must not have the pipe line through a Canadian route. That is a great province, and it is one of the wealthiest. If it associates itself with the province of British Columbia, as was mentioned by the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Laing), we will be the two greatest provinces in the Dominion of Canada. But apparently you must depend on the guidance of those in British Columbia to achieve that end.

In my own riding at the time of an election it was stated that small fruits—strawberries and raspberries—were rotting in Yarrow, British Columbia. This statement was made publicly by the leader of the Social Credit party. But he did not recognize the fact that these strawberries and raspberries were in SO<sub>2</sub>, were already not only purchased but paid for and were not rotting. But no retraction was made. In apologizing for the statement and for the excessive rate charged for the frozen wheat from Red Deer, I should like the hon. member to explain away that fact.