

The Budget—Mr. Blair

thirty miles down the Qu'Appelle valley. The powerhouse and spillway would be in Coteau creek. The use of power thus made available for industrial development of primary products will provide a great impetus for a more balanced economy.

The total cost of \$102 million does not mean that all this money will be spent in Saskatchewan. At least half of it will be spent in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, where equipment and supplies are manufactured.

I want to review something of the employment that this project will give. In total there will be 26 million man-hours of on-site labour used during the period of construction. That means that in actual labour on the project it will provide employment for 1,500 men for a 200-day period per year for over 10 years. It is recognized that labour is required for defence construction now, and it may be said: defer the project construction until this need is met. The obvious answer is that for the first two years of construction little labour will be required in the preparatory stages. These two years of preparation are necessary in order to meet conditions when maximum work can be done in one year. The work can also be made flexible enough to shift work according to conditions. The two years of preparatory construction are essential in order to avoid delays at a later time. The same conditions apply to off-site labour in relation to industry. In other words, it would be a fallacy and poor business to delay construction until defence requirements are met. No nation can go wrong in developing and improving the productivity of the primary resources of land and water. Food is next to guns and ammunition and anything that is done to improve food production is a benefit to the nation. Production of food for export will eventually have to pay for the guns.

This project will not require essential war materials as the dam is to be constructed of earth. Much of the machinery needed for its construction is now in use on other projects in western Canada.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I should like to pay tribute to Dr. Thomson, director of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, and his able staff of engineers and consultants, from whose reports I have drawn heavily in the preparation of this address. I would ask the government and all hon. members earnestly to study the evidence which has been tabled, so that they may satisfy themselves as to the necessity and urgency of this project.

I would ask hon. members to consider the desirability of stabilizing the economy of a

province which, in the past, has attracted, developed and given to the service of Canada parliamentarians such as Nicholas Flood Davin; Mr. Motherwell, former minister of agriculture; Mr. Dunning, former minister of finance; Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture; such legal minds as Mr. Justice Turgeon, Mr. Justice Martin and Mr. Justice Brown who have served so often and so well on many important commissions; such representatives in external affairs as the same Judge Turgeon, and the incomparable Judge T. C. Davis; such engineers as General Andrew McNaughton, of our international joint commission; Dr. C. J. Mackenzie, chairman of the national research council; such medical men as Dr. George Ferguson, whose pioneering work in the field of tuberculosis has brought health to thousands of our people and fame to this country; the late Dr. Blair, who contributed so much to the treatment of cancer, and whose cancer clinics in Regina and Saskatoon are models of their kind.

I would suggest that if there still remain some doubts in the minds of the government as to the necessity and feasibility of this project, they seek the advice of some of the men I have just mentioned.

Mr. W. G. Blair (Lanark): Mr. Speaker, the speeches this afternoon in the debate on the budget were devoted mainly to financial matters. I intend to introduce a new subject tonight, the consideration of the great dairy industry of Canada.

However, before entering upon the subject of my speech, for the information of the house I should like to read some of the propaganda that I found in an old pamphlet put out sixty years ago by the dairy people in the Department of Agriculture. Some of the expressions we may consider peculiar, but I think they will be found interesting. The pamphlet deals with the export of cheese, and goes on to say:

Exports of cheese from Canada exceeded in value total exports of cheese from the United States. Soil, climate, cattle, transportation facilities in Canada are admirably adapted for the prosecution of successful dairy farming.

The dominion government has established experimental dairy stations in different parts of Canada, and the provincial governments manage travelling dairies and dairy schools for the education of those interested in that branch of farming.

There are over 1,500 co-operative cheese factories and creameries in Canada. In most of the provinces there are excellent opportunities for intelligent farmers with some means to make dairy farming pay well.