

*The Address—Mr. George*

Moncton is an ambitious city, and is the fastest growing centre in the maritimes. In order that its growth and that of the surrounding area could be controlled, the town planning commission of the metropolitan area of greater Moncton was established. The commission is doing excellent work and future generations will appreciate and benefit from their efforts. There is one recommendation that they have made which I want to bring to the attention of the government and the management of the Canadian National Railways. The location of the main freight and passenger yards only a few hundred feet from the centre of the city is a constant source of noise and smoke. There appears to be more shunting at night, and while the local inhabitants seem to be immune to it, the tourists are not. Several schemes have been suggested to alleviate this situation, but the main objection to the most suitable one was the cost.

The planning commission and the board of trade have recommended that a cut-off be made from Jones siding to Buctouche junction, and that all through traffic be routed this way. In addition, new freight yards should be constructed to move the smoke and noise from the centre of the city. I sincerely hope that when this proposal is placed before the government and the Canadian National Railways, the investigation suggested by the Turgeon commission will be carried out, and that federal assistance will be made available for both the investigation and the building of the cut-off.

Last week the Canadian high school curlers conducted their bonspiel with the Moncton curling clubs as hosts. The Sifton trophy, which is emblematic of the country's top cracker in their class, was won by a rink from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. I extend to Skip Garry Thode and his rink our sincere congratulations.

I would not be doing justice to the province of New Brunswick if I did not pay tribute to our representative in the federal cabinet, the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Gregg). He started his military career as a trooper in the 8th Princess Louise's (New Brunswick) Hussars, the regiment which I now have the honour to command. In the first world war he won the empire's highest award, the Victoria Cross, and rose in the second world war to the rank of brigadier. His tenure of command at the O.C.T.U. at Brockville and the infantry training centre at Vernon, B.C., brought him in contact with the cream of our young Canadians, and he trained them well. Following the war, he was president of

the university of New Brunswick, and subsequently elected to parliament as minister of fisheries. His contribution as minister of veterans affairs is well known, especially to Canada's veterans. I am sure that the highest tribute to his ability was paid by the Prime Minister when he asked Mr. Gregg to become Minister of Labour on the death of the late Humphrey Mitchell, and in the face of an impending railway strike. We are proud of him, and I extend to him our sincere congratulations on his appointment as honorary colonel of his regiment of the first world war, and of the beginning of the second, the R.C.R.

Canada formerly was basically an agricultural country, and while its economy is rapidly becoming industrial, nevertheless agriculture is a very necessary and important part of our economy. I am a farmer, and the farmer's chief concern today is, What am I going to get for the produce I raise? He does not know, neither does he know if he can even sell his produce at any price. The regrettable outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Saskatchewan is very serious and to those whose stock is actually involved, I extend our sincere sympathy. What is going to be the result to the livestock industry of the embargo placed by the United States on Canadian livestock? We do not know, but this situation brings home to us, more forcibly than ever, the instability of the farmer's position. In this connection, I bring to the attention of the house a statement made by Mr. James Muir, president of the Royal Bank of Canada, speaking in Halifax on February 1, 1952:

Sometimes we hear complaints from producers that their well-being is threatened by cheap goods from abroad. Farmers, we are told, are being threatened by imports from New Zealand and the United States. But surely there must be something wrong with the price structure of a great agricultural producer such as Canada when New Zealand can send beef and butter from the other side of the world and lay it down in Canada at prices below what our own producers are charging. United States pork, pork products, beef and poultry do not have so far to come, but the volume of imports in recent weeks and months further underlines the basic fact that somehow our agricultural prices seem to be out of line. Why? I do not know the answer. I can only ask: Has the growth of Canadian industry stretched our agricultural forces so thin that we must become a large importer of food? Or has the farmer been placed at an undue disadvantage by the higher wages and shorter hours enjoyed by the industrial worker, resulting in higher prices for the things the farmer has to buy? Or has the edge of the farmer's incentive to produce been dulled by years of affluence in a seller's market?

I do not know the answer, but it appears to me that the problem is one which we in this house should study immediately, particularly in the light of the United States embargo.