

province. As a Nova Scotian I am very happy to be associated with Newfoundland, the fourth Maritime Province.

I do not wish to deal at length with the points raised by the honourable senator who has just spoken, but in my opinion a committee of the Senate could usefully occupy itself with a consideration of civil service questions and the making of recommendations which might be helpful in the making of appointments to and the operation of the service.

I now turn to that portion of the Speech from the Throne to which I referred earlier, and from which I will read two short paragraphs:

You will also be asked to approve a bill to establish a Department of Defence Production to act as a procurement agency for the defence forces of Canada.

That is No. 1. My second quotation is:

The high level of employment and production within our country give our people increased capacity to meet the demands of national and international security.

In those paragraphs will be found the two thoughts which I wish to dilate upon, concerning employment and development. I sincerely trust that any words of mine will not be misunderstood by honourable senators from the two provinces to which I shall refer by name—Quebec and Ontario—because—

Hon. Mr. Haig: That lets out the rest of us.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: —because I am going to deal with conditions in those two provinces. I do not know just what my honourable friend's interjection means.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I do not come from Ontario, and therefore I am not bound by your arguments.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: Thank you. I always like to hear an argument before I make a decision about it. In dealing with the question, I shall refer in the clearest and broadest possible way to the production and resources of the two provinces I have mentioned.

Hon. Mr. Haig: May I, in a spirit of helpfulness, ask the honourable gentleman a question? I have never been able to understand why Ontario, especially, and Quebec, to some extent, buy so much coal from the United States rather than from Nova Scotia. I wish the honourable senator would throw some light on the problem for the benefit of those of us who do not live either in Ontario or Quebec.

An Hon. Senator: American coal is cheaper.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: I thank the leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) for his question. It is one which on some future occasion

might be usefully clarified—perhaps helpfully to the people of Quebec and Ontario—with a view to added sales and greater prosperity in the section from which I come. At the moment, however, I wish to deal with the subject of production and the distribution of orders under the present system. May I make it clear that the table I am about to present is simply to emphasize the points I shall endeavour to make.

We all have read of the progress which our nation has made during the past fifty years. Only the other day I saw in one of the publications of the Imperial Bank of Canada some remarks by the senior Assistant General Manager, John S. Proctor. In dealing with the progress of Canada from the banking standpoint during the past half century, he stated that in 1900 bank deposits totalled \$276 million and that today they total \$7,290 million; that in 1900 savings deposits alone amounted to \$99½ million, and that today they total \$2,708 million. Referring to loans—whether this item is in point or not I do not know—he mentioned that outstanding loans today amount to a total of \$2,352 million, and that fifty years ago they were less than \$300 million. Investments in government and other securities now stand at \$4,348 million; fifty years ago they were \$50 million. In other words, they have multiplied ninety times in fifty years. I think that is wonderful progress.

I pass now to the matter of employment, and will quote from an article in the January, 1951 issue of the *Labour Gazette*, headed "Employment Conditions, November 1950." Dealing with Quebec, the article states:

Small lay-offs and other short-time work have been occasioned in the heavy industries of Montreal and other centres by shortages of steel. The demand continued strong for steel-working skills, however, and for aircraft production workers, although these were already in short supply.

In other words, employment in Quebec was at a fairly high level, and markedly different from the position in 1939, when plants were working at not more than 60 to 70 per cent capacity.

There was a similar situation in Ontario:

In the Ontario region, industries beginning work on defence contracts were conducting intensive recruiting campaigns in search of such skills as machinists, tool and die makers, foundry moulders, and aircraft production workers.

There again we have an indication of employment at a very high level.

But when the writer turns to the Maritimes, this is what he has to say:

The seasonal decline in employment in the Maritimes was definitely established in November as farming, fishing, fish processing and construction began to release workers in increasing numbers.