

*The Address—Mr. A. W. Stuart*

answer questions once a week until such time as the debate on the address is disposed of.

**Mr. Coldwell:** That is satisfactory.

**SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS  
IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Wednesday, November 18, consideration of the motion of Mr. A. H. Hollingworth for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Drew, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Coldwell.

**Mr. A. W. Stuart (Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, in my remarks yesterday I gave a description of conditions in New Brunswick, placing particular emphasis on conditions that exist at the present time among the potato growers in that province and in the fishing industry in general. When the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Sinclair) returns from overseas he will be asked to investigate these conditions I have described, in the hope that some way may be found to help remedy this most serious situation.

I am perfectly aware of the fact that my appeal may seem to be rather pessimistic, since influential citizens in our province have been telling the people that all is well. However, the citizens themselves will be the judges as to which story portrays the true picture.

For a few minutes I wish to return to an all-important subject, namely the proposed Passamaquoddy bay power project. This project has been under discussion internationally since 1925, and on November 9, 1948, the governments of the United States and Canada referred to the international joint commission of the two countries the responsibility for a preliminary investigation to determine the practicability, desirability and cost of a full-scale survey of various plans for a hydroelectric power development in the Passamaquoddy bay area.

In April, 1949, the commission appointed two representatives from each country to an international Passamaquoddy engineering board to carry out the preliminary investigation. On March 15, 1950, the board reported back to the commission as follows:

That it was the board's opinion that an international Passamaquoddy tidal power project could be physically engineered, constructed and operated; That determination of its economic feasibility must await a full-scale survey;

That such a survey would cost an estimated \$3,900,000—the cost to be apportioned equitably between the two countries.

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

This project, it is stated, would generate around a million horsepower. But what the people in that particular area would like to know is this. If this project is feasible, how much will it cost to build and operate it; how much will the consumers have to pay for power; how will its cost compare with that obtainable from other sources, hydroelectric river power and fuel-operated power? Which of the several alternate plans for 'Quoddy is the best, in terms of cost, power to be realized, maintenance and so forth? How great a market is there for 'Quoddy power, existing and potential, local and export? How can this power be co-ordinated with power from other sources? How far can it be economically transmitted? These are questions that have been awaiting answers for a long, long time.

The development of 'Quoddy would offer, we believe, new industries the advantages of a superb deep water, year-round port at a point well situated in regard to world markets, 283 miles nearer Gibraltar than New York, 425 miles nearer Liverpool. Raw materials and heavy cargoes would benefit from cheap water-borne transportation.

When completed, the inner area of this project would extend over a hundred square miles, and would be one of the finest harbours to be found anywhere in the world. I urgently request that the government furnish the necessary funds to complete this survey, and that is all we are asking for at this time. What we are asking is that the survey be completed. What we would like to know is whether or not this project is economically sound. We are not asking that it be built at this time; we are not asking that any start be made along those lines, but we do feel that this survey should be completed; and I, as a member from that section, do believe that we owe it to the people down there to complete this survey. I believe they have been held in suspense long enough, and it is time that we had some action in this regard. If after the survey is completed it is decided that this project is not economically sound, then it can be forgotten; and I am one who would wish that it should be forgotten if that is the report we get.

The people living in this area have watched the project for many, many years. Back in 1925 the first move was made to get a complete survey of this proposed project. That was 28 years ago, and for 28 years it has been passed back and forth between the governments of these two countries, without any definite action being taken. A few years ago the United States did send a branch of their engineering corps to this particular section where surveys were made on their own. They