

However, I harbour no illusion for I am well aware that it is not my humble person which has made me worthy of this honour, but my claim as rural representative of this little Canadian Switzerland, known as the eastern townships of the province of Quebec, and which, in 1930, returned six members to carry out the policy of our illustrious Leader of whom the present government feels so proud.

The eastern townships, and more particularly the county of Compton first, were settled by British stock, of English, Scotch and Irish origin.

When the declaration of American Independence took place, many loyalists desirous of living under the protection of the Union Jack transferred their home to the eastern part of our province.

Among them there shone a true leader, one inspired by lofty views, who contributed more than any to give to this corner of our province a special character of bilingualism. This man whose memory still is cherished in the annals of our history, bore the name of John Henry Pope. He took an active part in the affairs of our country, became first member for the constituency of Compton in 1857 when the provinces of Ontario and Quebec were joined together, and later joined the cabinet of Sir John A. Macdonald. He was the first to conceive the idea of settling French Canadian parishes in the county of Compton, along the United States border. Greatly encouraged by the clergy of the time, he took advantage of the repatriation movement, then in full swing, from 1870 to 1880, so as to bring back from the United States a large number of French Canadian families.

In this, the untiring co-operation of the colonization society of the county of Bagot, proved to be a precious help and attracted to our section of the country numerous families from the older parishes of the Richelieu and Yamaska valleys.

On many an occasion he publicly proclaimed that the settlement of these French Canadian parishes along the United States border was our strongest bulwark against American invasion.

Such was the spirit which gave birth to the settlement of these bilingual parishes. It is, therefore, not astonishing that the two races have always lived together in an unbroken harmony.

(Translation) Now, Mr. Speaker, the fifth session of the present parliament begins, I think, most auspiciously. Canada seems to have definitely reached the stage of readjustment, a forerunner of prosperity, the only

[Mr. Gobeil.]

one compatible with a young country endowed by Providence with an unparalleled wealth of resources. The Imperial conference agreements, in force for over twelve months, have given most satisfactory results, and the government under the leadership of the present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) has cause to rejoice.

May I, sir, quote a few figures gathered from our official statistics, they refer to the increase of our agricultural products exported to England, without, however, including the other component parts of the British Empire. I note that from October, 1932, to October, 1933, these agreements have greatly benefited the Canadian fruit industry, and it is noteworthy that these products are of the utmost interest to all the provinces of Canada, with the exception, perhaps, of the three prairie provinces. In the course of those twelve months, we exported to the United Kingdom 1,753,601 barrels of apples, compared with 1,407,047 barrels for the previous twelve months, thus showing an increase of 25 per cent. During the same period we exported, in 1932, 136,975 pounds of dried apples, while in 1933, we exported 511,025 pounds or an increase of 275 per cent.

In 1932, always during the same period, our exports of various preserved fruits amounted to 7,184,063 pounds, while in 1933, the figures reached 16,479,000 pounds, or an increase of 129 per cent. As to canned vegetables, our exports which amounted to 7,570,295 pounds in 1932, reached in 1933, 10,263,802 pounds or an increase of 36 per cent.

In 1932, we exported to the United Kingdom 172,462,000 feet of planks and boards; in 1933, 450,000,000 feet, and it is to be noted that the price of this lumber has been increasing within the last six months. Meat exports show interesting figures. Poultry exports—this item is of interest to all the provinces, including the western provinces—increased from 338,094 pounds in 1932, to 1,026,513 pounds in 1933, or an increase of more than 200 per cent. Bacon from 317,022 cwt to 605,088 cwt. or an increase of 91 per cent, and the price of pork has more than doubled within the last twelve months, moreover, the Canadian farmer has an opportunity of considerably increasing his output of bacon, since the quota of our exports is still far under the one agreed upon.

As to cattle the prices have not been as satisfactory as those of pork, although there has been of late an improvement, especially as regards those which meet the British market requirements, and the difference in prices