

The Address—Mr. W. J. Browne

tion of this house for the work that he has done. I should also like to refer to a statement which I saw in the press yesterday about a gentleman in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, who was building low-rental houses for the accommodation of people who were seeking housing accommodation in that city.

I should like to refer to the housing problem in the city of St. John's, Newfoundland. There, sir, I believe the housing corporation, which was created a few years ago, made a tragic mistake in erecting high-class houses instead of erecting houses for those who were not able to pay high rental. The chief problem is with the poor and the middle class. The rich person is able to look after himself. I promised those of my constituents who live in dreadful hovels in the city of St. John's that I would urge the necessity of the government giving attention to the housing situation of those people down there. I trust that the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply (Mr. Winters), when he was in St. John's, took the opportunity of visiting these dreadful places, and that he will take early steps to have something better substituted.

There is one other matter on the housing question to which I should like to refer, and it is an important one. Hon. members from Nova Scotia are familiar with the co-operative movement which has been created down there. They must know that in connection with the co-operative movement Dr. Tompkins developed a housing plan which has been copied, I believe, in other parts of this country. It has been copied in our own. Dr. Tompkins bought seventy-five acres of land, and he gave each man an acre. He brought down two ladies from Maine who studied with groups of ten people how to build a house. They designed their houses outside and in. They reckoned every penny that was necessary for the construction, for fittings and for furnishing these houses, and they came out right to the \$2 piece. The hon. member for Inverness-Richmond (Mr. Carroll) knows how successful that plan was. He knows that these houses were built and that they cost only \$9 a month and were paid for in the comparatively short time of from twelve to fifteen years. I have not been able to see that plan continued since 1946, but in 1946 it was a pleasure to me to witness groups of ten ex-service men working together to build their houses co-operatively. At the time I was there they had a concrete mixer. They were all working, stripped to the waist, helping one another to build houses in which they could live with their families. That is the cheapest form of housing.

Today I understood the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply to say that the people were going to get credit for the labour that

[Mr. Browne (St. John's West).]

they were putting into their houses. Many years ago we had a scheme for civil servants in St. John's, based on Dr. Tompkins' scheme. It fell through because the government of the day would not give the people credit for the labour they put in on their houses. If that had been done we would have had a solution to the housing problem, which we have not yet.

Finally, sir, what has the future in store for Newfoundland? What are to be the relations between Newfoundland and the rest of Canada? It depends largely upon the question whether the government intends to be just and fair. I must confess, sir, that since I came here I have found much evidence of good will, for which I am truly grateful. I hope that this good will will continue, because if it does I feel quite confident that our people, despite the handicaps under which they suffer, will do all in their power to promote the happiness and the prosperity of a great united nation.

Mr. Sinclair: Will the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Browne) permit a question for the purpose of clarification?

Mr. Green: It is his maiden speech.

Mr. Sinclair: I know it is his maiden speech. I think he made a slip in regard to Mr. Mackenzie King. He said that Mr. Mackenzie King was Prime Minister in 1933 and opposed the confederation of Newfoundland with Canada.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): I did not hear the first part of the remark.

Mr. Sinclair: When describing the royal commission of 1933 the hon. member said that they had investigated every possibility, including confederation with Canada, and that that was opposed by Mr. Mackenzie King at that time. The hon. member will recall that it was not Mr. Mackenzie King but Mr. R. B. Bennett who was Prime Minister in 1933.

Mr. J. W. Noseworthy (York South): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy this afternoon to have the opportunity of following in this debate a compatriot from Newfoundland. I want to congratulate the seven members in this house who sit for various constituencies in that island. I am happy to find that at long last Great Britain's oldest colony has taken in Canada, and that at long last the dreams of the fathers of confederation have been fulfilled. I want to congratulate some of the members from Newfoundland on the marvellous majorities which they received in their election. With all due respect to what has just been said by the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Browne), there is every indication that by and large the people