

*The Address—Mr. Macquarrie*

**Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North):** Since we are constantly being reassured that the investor only wants to invest in a growing country and perish the thought, has no desire to make a killing at the expense of us natives, his wishes should be honoured.

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens):** Mr. Speaker, in the first instance I wish to associate myself with all those who have congratulated the mover and seconder of this address. I do that with the utmost sincerity. I must also congratulate the Speaker and his deputies and commend them for the manner in which they discharge all their important duties. Sir Robert Borden once said of the Speaker that he must be impartial, firm, courteous and, above all, patient, and I think that in the last few weeks we have seen demonstrations of all these essential virtues.

I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that it is necessary for me to identify myself in a manner somewhat different from that which other hon. members have used. I come from a riding which elects two members, the dual riding of Queen's. I am the junior member. The senior member is the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. MacLean). He is my senior in parliamentary experience, of course, but more surprisingly, if one looks at him, he is my senior in years as well. The hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Morris) spoke about the distinction between the two men bearing the name of his constituency in terms of one being long and the other short. I do not think any great distinction can be drawn between the Minister of Fisheries and myself in this respect, but we might invite comparison in the matter of width and here again, I would defer to him in that regard.

A maiden speech, as one member of this house observed years ago, is always a valuable exercise. To the new member it gives a rare opportunity to experience a deep feeling of humility, an attitude good for the soul as well as for the mind. To the other members of the house it affords an opportunity to show indulgence, one of the greatest virtues of men and especially, it is said, leaders of men.

While I am not lacking in the proper sentiments of humility concerning my own shortcomings as I speak in this historic chamber, I have no need to feel such sentiments about my constituency nor my province. Through the years in previous parliaments my predecessors have doubtless described the glories and beauties of our fair green province and lauded the virtues of its citizens. What has been said in this line is, of course, no exaggeration, for Canada's garden province is known far and wide as one of the beauty

spots of the continent. A steadily increasing number of tourists attest to its charm and hospitality.

But to the list of descriptive superlatives which might be applied to Prince Edward Island and its people must be added one more. Unsurpassed we have long been in many things. On June 10 we displayed our unchallenged superiority in something else, the excellence of our political judgment. The call for a new deal was sounded all over Canada, but in our province it was clear, it was unmistakable, it was unanimous. For the first time in history, Prince Edward Island sent a full slate of Conservative members of parliament to Ottawa. We are today the only 100 per cent province. 'Twas not ever thus, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, over the years our province has shown a remarkable fidelity to the Liberal party. In the provincial election of 1935 a neighbour of mine was leading the Liberal party and he was so triumphant in the result, that every single Conservative candidate was defeated. For four years the Prince Edward Island legislature did not include a single opposition member. In the dominion field, too, the Liberal party has been almost as successful down through the years.

What caused the change? Hon. members opposite will doubtless be interested in this question, since they have been indulging in a good many post-mortems lately. Of course, there is never just one reason for political change, but I will touch on one major cause of the total collapse of the Liberal position in my province. On June 10 Prince Edward Island decided to register a strong protest against the treatment it had received at the hands of the party controlling the national government. This protest was primarily on economic matters. We rejoice in the prosperity of this country but we believe that it is in the interests of the whole country that the maritime region be not allowed to fall farther and farther behind.

In Prince Edward Island we are faced with serious financial difficulties. Freight rates are high, there are serious communication and transportation problems. We lack the sources of revenue which are available to other provinces. There is a growing number of abandoned farms. Provincial governments, faced with rising costs of public services, have to meet increasing large budgetary deficits.

To ensure equality of services for all Canadians, we believe that fiscal need and economic capacity must be considered with great attention in the realm of dominion-provincial relations. It is not the fault of the people of Prince Edward Island that there