

The Address—Mr. J. F. Browne

speech he has just made. I know the people of his riding will be justly proud of him and will feel, as I do, that his remarks reflect very accurately the strong sense of national unity and the feeling of confidence in the future felt by Canadians generally in the leadership of the Prime Minister.

I wish to say something about this feeling of confidence because it is so important to us both as individuals and as a nation. I am sure we have all learned from experience that when we approach any job or any problem with the idea that we may not have the right solution or that things are not going to go very well we inevitably end in failure. This is just as true of a nation as it is of an individual and I raise the matter at this time not only because of the extreme importance I attach to it at any time but because of the unprecedented and unwarranted attempts on the part of some people in this country to promote feelings of pessimism and gloom. Not only is there no reason for such feelings but any such attempt is not in the best interests of this country. I know that those which preach gloom and despair are only sealing their own fate. However, these pessimistic utterances must be recognized for what they are and the best way to do that is to examine some of the outcries that have been raised and then to look at the facts.

I think we should first look back to some of the major problems which were facing us at the time of the last election. We should recall what was promised by the Prime Minister in relation to them, and consider where those problems stand now. The time has long passed when during the course of a single speech one could begin to recite all the accomplishments of the present administration because they are far too numerous. It is interesting to note, however, that notwithstanding the serious problems which were facing us at that time this government has succeeded in carrying out its election undertakings to a degree never before seen in this country. Mr. Peter C. Newman writing in *Maclean's* magazine of September 23, 1961, stated that 50 of the 62 specific promises made had already been carried out or were in the process of being discharged. Then there is the article in the *Executive* magazine of January, 1962 by Mr. John D. Harbron in which the author after outlining the major appeals to the electorate by the Prime Minister goes on to say: "all of which he was to keep". It is evident from independent reports such as these that with the fulfilment of the measures outlined in the present speech from the throne the government will not only have kept its promises but it will have gone far beyond them.

Now let us consider some of the specific problems. First, the question of trade. This is one of the fields in which attempts have been made to promote gloom and despair. There might have been some reason for gloom and despair in 1956. At that time we had a trade deficit amounting to \$713 million. In other words we had an excess of imports over exports to that amount. We had a huge grain surplus which could not be disposed of, and markets were being lost throughout the world. Since the present government came to office our exports have increased steadily each and every year. Our grain surplus has been disposed of. We have strengthened our position in old markets and gained new ones. By the end of 1960 our trading deficit had been reduced to a small fraction of what it was in 1956, and for the first ten months of 1961, the latest figures which I have been able to obtain from the dominion bureau of statistics, we had a trading surplus of \$52 million. There is every reason to believe that when the final figures are published we shall have had an excess of exports over imports for the first time since 1952.

Before I go any further, I should like to say something about the use of statistics in a speech such as this. I know that statistics are sometimes hard to follow and that sometimes they seem dull and uninteresting. For this reason I should like to say a few words to show how the improvement indicated by these statistics concerns the average man. Let us consider grain, for instance. In the first place, disposing of our surplus has helped the farmer in several ways. There have been cash returns from the sales. Moreover, the prospects for future sales have been improved, and because there is no longer a huge surplus prices have improved. Much of this grain, because of its ultimate destination, moved through the port of Vancouver, the largest grain shipping port in the world. It provided jobs for people in the transportation industry there. It provided jobs for grain handlers in Vancouver. It brought ships to the port of Vancouver, and this in turn provided business for our merchants and jobs for our people. It is not possible to follow through each of the statistics I intend to use in this way but I can assure hon. members that each of them is just as vital and alive as the example I have used.

This vast improvement was not brought about by pessimism. It was brought about by confidence and constructive action on the part of the government. It was brought about by such actions as bringing our trade commissioners home to meet with our businessmen and helping them to sell their products; by sending numerous trade missions