

Bridge at Saskatchewan Landing

he then took care to turn his guns over this way a little bit by suggesting that the Saskatchewan government has not been successful in its undertakings.

We have a pretty good history in Saskatchewan, although no doubt there have been mistakes. I mentioned one of them just a moment ago that occurred in the year 1930 to 1934. At that time when the Tory government was in power, when there was a Tory government down here, when there were lots of unemployed and plenty of work to do, all they could think of to do was to send machine guns to Estevan to stop the miners from striking and send out the police from Regina to stop the relief camp marching. This was done at a time when they could have sent out these men with spades to build the dam the hon. member has been talking about today.

There is another thing I should like to point out to the hon. member and I am going to quote a few things for his edification and in the possible hope that he will gain some knowledge about this particular matter. I should like to quote from a speech delivered by the Hon. C. M. Fines, provincial treasurer of Saskatchewan, in the legislature this year. The hon. member has been talking about failures in government business and I should like him to remember a few of the words I am going to quote. I start at page 12 and continue into page 13 as follows:

Despite the claims of its critics, this government is not concerned with regimenting our economy, but rather is concerned that the affairs of private enterprise be characterized by both justice and a sustained level of prosperity.

Turning now to the entry of new capital into the province, a total of 123 new companies, with a total authorized capital of \$7,424,600, were incorporated this year.

Mr. Fulton: Is this a grievance?

Mr. Bentley: Yes, very definitely. It is the same kind of grievance the hon. member for Lake Centre brought up this afternoon for his own purpose. I am replying to it and then I will go on with my grievance.

Mr. Fines continues:

Further, 34 outside companies were registered in 1948, while 503 partnerships were also registered in the same period.

I should like the hon. member to listen to some more figures which I am taking from Commercial Failures in the Calendar Year 1948, published by the dominion bureau of statistics. I received this in the mail just the other day. Turning back again to the period when the Tories were in power both in Saskatchewan and in Ottawa, I should like to give details of private business failures. The Tories are the great private enterprise people. I do not know why they do not get

[Mr. Bentley.]

private enterprise to build a dam on the South Saskatchewan river, or a couple of dams. They are such risk capital gentlemen and there would be lots of risk there. These are the commercial failures for the years when they were in power:

1930	146
1931	152
1932	91
1933	59
1934	36

Here are the figures for the period from 1945 when there has been a C.C.F. government in the province:

1945	none
1946	none
1947	2
1948	4

Let us see how the Tory government did in Ontario. In Ontario in 1945 there were 27 business failures; in 1946 there were 20; in 1947 there were 72; and in 1948 in Tory Ontario there were 116 business failures. And the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) has the effrontery to get up in this house and endeavour to persuade the people of this country that Saskatchewan would be better off with a Tory government. Now let us look at Quebec, which also has a species of Tory government; let us see what its record of business failures is under good old private enterprise. In Quebec in 1945 there were 225 business failures; in 1946 there were 236; in 1947 there were 422; and in 1948 there were 613 failures. What a wonderful record the hon. member has given this house to consider. Then when the hon. gentleman mentions the crown companies of Saskatchewan I want to remind him that within the last few months in the province of Ontario three woollen mills closed down, one at Meaford, another at Kitchener, and the Glen Williams mill. I believe there were quite a few more, but I have not a record of them so I cannot give any details.

To go on with my grievance, I want to point out to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) that now there is no reason why he cannot go ahead and make a start on this twelve-year old project in regard to a dam across the South Saskatchewan river. He has talked about it since 1945 as an election promise.

Mr. Gardiner: We started on it in 1939.

Mr. Bentley: Yes, I know you started then, and I will give you credit for the fact that the war interfered with the project. But the war has been over for some years; the minister must still have a few engineers, and they should have found the proper place by now. As a matter of fact I believe they have found it; because during the Rosthern by-election