

*The Address—Mr. Stefanson*

should happen but I am sure many hon. members will agree that the legislation passed at the last session of parliament did much to bring about these improved conditions.

The outlook for 1962 is good. Business people are predicting a good increase in total productivity, increased employment and an increase in business generally. I shall not quote any of the business leaders as many of their statements have already been placed on the record and are in *Hansard* for all to read. However, I am sure most members would agree that the legislation enacted at the last session is largely responsible for the upsurge in business and the bright future facing Canadians in 1962.

Mention is made in the speech from the throne of the economic policies which have been implemented in preceding sessions of parliament. It is true that great benefits are flowing from these policies which are helping to bring about improved conditions in this country and further benefits can be expected, especially when the people who have taken technical training come back on the labour force. I feel that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Starr) deserves a lot of credit for much of this legislation. The municipal winter works incentive program has been a real success and of real benefit in creating employment, as was shown in the debate on the supplementary estimates.

Last summer was the hottest and driest summer we have ever had in Manitoba. With that combination it is amazing what crops were harvested. Some farmers had to reduce their herds but in most cases farmers were able to get enough fodder to retain their basic herds. The government deserves credit for taking quick action in working out a plan with the provinces to assist in the movement of livestock and fodder, and also in establishing a fodder bank.

This government has passed a great deal of legislation relating to agriculture and this legislation is having favourable results and is bringing about improvements. The agricultural picture is brighter now than it has been for a long time. At this stage I want to quote from a brief submitted by the farmers' union to the special legislative committee on livestock marketing in Manitoba on September 21, 1961. This is to be found at page 9 of their brief:

The interest shown by the United States in our cattle since the latter part of June of this year has been the greatest boon to drought-stricken cattle marketings that we could possibly have had. There is no doubt that the movement of cattle to the United States from 2,174 head in June to 24,492 head in July, 42,896 head in August and 12,424 head up to September 2 (one week only) has helped to hold price levels and has even increased prices to producers. The greatest impetus to this movement has been the difference in the exchange

value of the U.S. dollar as compared to the Canadian dollar. The 6 per cent or more change in the exchange to the benefit of U.S. buyers selling on their home market helped boost our price by this difference. It has even created a greater hurdle for any slaughter cattle attempting the reverse procedure and being sold from the U.S. on our market.

The interlake area is now included in P.F.R.A. This change was brought about last July. Farmers and municipal officials had been making requests for many years to be included in the terms of P.F.R.A. but they always fell on deaf ears. The minister of agriculture in the former government said that the interlake area would never be included, and it never would have been if the Liberals had stayed in power. People will not forget the shabby treatment they received from the former government.

During the past few years there have been more houses built, and more construction in such towns as Selkirk, Stonewall, Gimli, Teulon, Arborg and others than in any previous similar period. Last summer one lumber dealer told me that he had never had a busier year and that there was more construction going on than ever before. The interesting fact is that this happened under a Conservative government.

Due to the policies carried out by the present government the constituency I have the honour to represent has received many benefits. Under the aggressive policies of our Minister of Public Works new post offices have been built or are being built at Fisher Branch, Lundar, Riverton, Eriksdale and Winnipeg Beach, and others are in the planning stage. R.C.M.P. detachment barracks have been built or are being built at Selkirk, Lundar and Gimli, with others in the planning stage. New docks have been built on lake Winnipeg at McBeth Point and Whiteway Point. Extensions have been built to several others including those at Selkirk, Gimli, and Gull harbour and work is nearing completion for the breakwater for the harbour at Gimli.

The Minister of Transport and his department are carrying out an aggressive aids to navigation program for lake Winnipeg. Many new lights have now been installed and this work is much appreciated. The Postmaster General (Mr. Hamilton) and his department have increased the frequency of mail service in many areas. I could list many other benefits but I think I have illustrated that our government is both progressive and alive. Under the former government things had been at a complete standstill for many years.

The former house leader of the N.D.P.-C.C.F. and other opposition members have poked fun at the A.R.D.A. bill. In my opinion this is one of the most important bills passed