

The Address—Mr. T. A. M. Kirk

Even if I am perhaps imposing, Mr. Speaker, I would not want to conclude my remarks without recalling an incident in which you took part yourself last night, that is the hand-craft exhibition of the province of Quebec now being held at the Chateau Laurier. This was not the first time that I saw most of the exhibits but to see them all exhibited in one place, especially outside the province of Quebec, and in a city so hospitable and sympathetic as Ottawa the beautiful, I believe is something that gives us a feeling of legitimate pride.

I noticed two items in particular. I might have been somewhat prejudiced at that moment, since the exhibits were being displayed by people from my own constituency of Beauce, Mr. Henri-Louis Lévesque and Mr. and Mrs. Gérard Poulin. These people have done magnificent work. The house will allow me to extend to them my congratulations and to assure them that their achievements are truly wonderful.

(Text):

Mr. T. A. M. Kirk (Digby-Yarmouth): Mr. Speaker, to the mover (Mr. Larson) and seconder (Mr. Dumas) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne may I extend my hearty congratulations and assure them that the brevity of my comment is in inverse proportion to the respect and admiration I have for their most excellent presentations.

As a new member I am deeply conscious of the outstanding representatives from western Nova Scotia who have sat in this house during the last two decades. One calls to mind immediately such eminent and outstanding parliamentarians as the Right Hon. J. L. Ilsley, who is now chief justice of the supreme court of Nova Scotia, and the late Colonel the Hon. J. L. Ralston, both of whom filled with great distinction many portfolios in the government. One also recalls Vincent J. Pottier, K.C., now a county court judge in the province of Nova Scotia, and judge in admiralty for Nova Scotia of the Exchequer Court of Canada, and Major Loran E. Baker, former parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Defence.

Although the new constituency of Digby-Yarmouth had its borders altered to conform with county lines, with Digby municipality replacing Shelburne county, its general make-up as to economy and population is practically unchanged. The constituency is essentially a district of small primary producers, each with his own particular problems, and it is still unique in its inclusion of two great races—each bringing its own special characteristics to the moulding of a common citizenship. The counties of Yarmouth and Digby are a part of Canada where for genera-

[Mr. Poulin.]

tions those two great races, English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians, have lived side by side in perfect sympathy and understanding.

With reference to one of our primary industries, may I say that the statement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) on Monday last in the house, to the effect that trade commissioners in several countries are working on the sale of pit props and that there is some hope that sales will be made, is a ray of encouragement to the farmers and truckers of Digby county in particular.

As to the primary industry of fishing, may I say that during the last thirty years the production of fish in western Nova Scotia has doubled, and in my constituency the fishing industry is keenly aware of the program of development outlined by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Mayhew) to the house on December 6 last.

Canada has access to the world's greatest fishing resources in the Atlantic, and we want to see an expansion program that will not in any way permit the reappearance of any economic weak spots. The trend from salt fish to the fresh and frozen products is continuing, and we are fully cognizant of the necessity of modern processing in filleting, packaging and freezing.

Along the Digby coast investigations have been and are being made into the effect of dragging operations with particular reference to the complaint that the feeding grounds are being destroyed. The complaint that draggers are interfering with other methods of fishing by inshore fishermen is also being investigated. We await with keen interest the report on these two specific investigations.

There are certain other matters pertaining to the fishing industry which I look forward to discussing at a later date when the estimates of the Department of Fisheries are before the house.

Upon leaving the subject of commercial fishing, may I refer briefly to the international tuna tournaments held annually at Wedgeport, a centre of 1,500 people, practically all of whom are of Acadian French descent. The headquarters of the tuna tournament is Wedgeport, and from here the boats set out for the now internationally known Soldier's Rip, where the huge blue fin are caught by rod and line.

Last fall teams from the Argentine, Brazil, the British empire, Cuba and the United States took part in this competition. Next year we expect that there will be at least two teams from the Scandinavian countries. Last year in a period of a few weeks the anglers caught approximately 1,800 tuna, most of them