

produced in that country in addition to wheat. I have very much pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in supporting the motion of the hon. member for Peace River.

Mr. VINCENT DUPUIS (Laprairie-Napierville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to say a few words in favour of the resolution which has been moved by my hon. friend from Peace River (Mr. Kennedy). Sometimes it may be thought in this house that the people of the east and their representatives are not interested in the problems of other parts of this country. That certainly is not the case, and if my humble voice can destroy any prejudices in that regard I shall feel that I have not spoken in vain.

This year I had the advantage of making my first trip to the west. En passant, may I say that I shall always remember that trip and the kindly way in which I was received by my fellow-citizens of French and English origin and by those of Liberal and Conservative belief. I might add that the Progressives also were kind enough to facilitate my trip through the west.

I went to the Peace River district, where I have quite a number of relatives and friends who have gone out there from my own district. It is undoubtedly true that to make such a trip gives one a far better knowledge of the actual situation than one can acquire by reading books, historical and geographical, on any country. I was surprised to find that the district of Peace River is a real country by itself, rich in soil and natural resources, in mines and in timber, and possessing also many other resources which hon. members who live in that part of the country are better able to enumerate than I can. Of all the places that I had the pleasure of passing through I can truly say that none seemed to me more fertile, if I except the Red river valley, than the Peace River district itself. To judge by the way the farmers there are going in for mixed farming, it is a real province of Quebec. But as the hon. member for Cariboo (Mr. Fraser) said a moment ago, though Providence has blessed that country with a fertile soil and great natural resources, what advantage can the people derive from their production when prices are so low? During my trip I noticed that eggs, for instance, were given to the village store for five cents a dozen in exchange for goods. Butter, when they could sell it at all, was sold at from six to ten cents a pound. They produce not only wheat but a large quantity of oats, but they could not sell their grain

at a reasonable price last summer, and one of the reasons for the poor return to the farmer was the cost of transportation. If I am well informed, it cost from five to six cents a bushel to carry the grain from the Peace River district only as far as Edmonton. At that time oats was selling at 24 cents a bushel. When you deduct the cost of transportation and the cost of production, the farmers might just as well do as some of our labouring men do—declare a strike, and just produce for themselves. That reminds me, Mr. Speaker, of a little story that I heard when I was out there. I was talking on this very subject of the prices of farm products when a farmer told me that just before I arrived all the hens of the district had met together and declared a strike. The rooster decided that with the prices being received for eggs it was useless for the hens to go to so much trouble to lay them, and so the hens decided not to lay any more. Perhaps, when he speaks again, the hon. member for Peace River will tell us just what occurred. With the prices these farmers are receiving for their products they might just as well follow the decision reached by the hens.

It is a pity that any district with so many possibilities for future development, with such interest for the newcomer should be cut off from civilization simply because this government refuses to spend sufficient money to construct this outlet. I know the government consider this matter from the financial point of view; their purse is empty after having spent so much for the construction of the Hudson Bay railway which did not bring the desired results. They have been forced to cancel a contract already entered into for the expenditure of \$50,000,000 to develop the Canadian National Railways terminal in Montreal. I know the government will say that they cannot spend money at this time but I think there should be at least a vote of sympathy. I do not think I need be a prophet to say what the government will decide to do. I am afraid they will vote against this resolution. As the hon. member for Cariboo said a moment ago, only thirty-nine members supported a similar resolution moved last year. At least the government should give a vote of sympathy to this resolution. They should admit that the principle of this resolution is sound, that an outlet should be built in the near future. I am afraid the building of such an outlet will not be in the hands of the present government, but the matter would be there for the next government to take into immediate consideration. Even though the government decide