

real which, itself does not ask for." We now know that the municipal authorities of Montreal have made the request as well as a great number of public bodies. The resolutions are too numerous, and time is too short, to read them to the house, however, I shall specially mention the highly favourable resolution sent to us by the league of property owners of Montreal, on April 17, 1929, and which reads as follows:

"Resolved, that the league of property owners of Montreal earnestly pray the Dominion government to construct a branch line which will link Montreal to the Transcontinental by the shortest and most direct route; and that copy of the present resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Railways, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the city of Montreal, the leader of the council of the city of Montreal and to all the federal members of the counties interested."

Is it necessary to add, sir, that it is recognized to-day that the shortest line which will link Montreal to the Transcontinental is the one which would pass through Joliette and St.-Michel-des-Saints, in the county of Berthier?

It is not my intention to review all the arguments in favour of this important national scheme. Let me but refer to the masterly statement on this question by the hon. senator Casgrain, in the Senate last year, which can be found in the proceedings of that body February, 1929; also to the speeches delivered in this House by my predecessor, Mr. Justice Denis, during the last decade.

I shall, however, add that this projected railway will have the effect of opening up to the tourists one of the most beautiful centres of the province of Quebec. It is estimated that this new tourist industry brings into this country more than \$300,000,000 per year. It is therefore important to draw to this country the greatest number possible of tourists, by making easy the access to the most sought country resorts. And I do not know of any more beautiful spot than that part of the Laurentian hills which crosses the north of the county of Joliette, and skirts, in the Berthier county, the magnificent perspective of the Seven Falls, extending as far as St.-Michel-des-Saints, always in a marvellous scenery, in the midst of beautiful romantic landscapes, surrounded by numerous lakes that the great poet Lamartine himself would not have disdained to describe. Numerous tourists have the habit of visiting, during the summer season, these hunting and fishing grounds located in the north of the counties of Joliette and Berthier, and, each year, in increasing numbers, they return to them in their motor cars.

While on the subject of tourists, may I make a humble suggestion, express a thought which might be of a nature to germinate in many minds and take root later on? Might I suggest that it would be in the interest of the whole nation to add to the Interior Department, for instance, which already has an admirable and perfect system to advertise our national resources, a department of tourists, under the direction of a special commissioner, as in France, to which might be added other commissioners who could reside in some of the principle centres in the United States, a country very sympathetic to Canada, and the best recruiting grounds for tourists. I think that if we had such a tourist department, we could advertise those beautiful regions visited each year by thousands of tourists, who might be directed where life is pleasant in the summer months, from the sunny coast of Gaspé, so beautifully described by you Mr. Speaker, in an admirable sketch that was recently published, on the occasion of the anniversary of the fourth century of civilization in America, as far back as the sublime Laurentian hills which make us dream of heaven.

I stated at the outset of my remarks that the present budget favours the farming class. The other day an hon. member drew the attention of the government to the fact that a car load of vegetables, coming from the United States and shipped to the Canadian west, had been subjected to a duty three times higher than previous to the budget.

A number of members, prone, no doubt, to criticize the budget, will perhaps tell the working classes that with the new protective tariff, certain vegetables or fruits will sell a few cents dearer. The preferential tariff provides, first, for restocking the market, under most favourable conditions, from Bermuda and the West Indies.

The new customs duties levied on fruits and vegetables imported from the United States, will be criticized. However, the working classes will benefit by the fruits and vegetables imported from Bermuda and the West Indies, under a reduced tariff. As to the protective tariff against the products of the United States, it will benefit the farming class and in the long run the working classes themselves. Have not the latter an interest in protecting themselves against the exodus of the rural population towards urban and industrial centres. The best means of preventing this exodus of our farmers towards the towns, is to provide the agricultural class with the means of a livelihood from the tillage of the soil. If we must protect them to reach this result, let us protect them. It is a sound policy.