

The Address—Mr. Chaplin

Mr. Winch: May I say that my hon. friend knows where I have been. I have just returned from the Okanagan and the Kootenays, where this problem exists.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. GORDON
CHAPLIN AND SECONDED BY MR. CLEMENT
VINCENT

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. Gordon Chaplin (Waterloo South): Mr. Speaker, I would at this time like to extend to you my very warm congratulations on your appointment to high office. I believe that anyone who was in this house yesterday and saw you will agree that you will serve with great distinction, and I hope that in this capacity you may serve for many, many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am conscious of the very great honour that has been given me here today by the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) in asking me to move the adoption of the speech from the throne. I feel very diffident, as I am sure any new member would when one considers the number of great Canadians who over the years have taken their place in this chamber. It also gives me a great sense of pride when I recall that my late father spent many years in this house as the then member for Lincoln. In those days it would never have occurred to me that I would have either the honour or the opportunity of representing in this assembly another great and historic constituency. It gives me a very warm and personal pleasure to see here in his place today the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Rowe). He served in this house with my father, and to the best of my knowledge he is the only remaining link with that generation.

Mr. Speaker, it would seem appropriate that, with many new members in the house, I should perhaps give some description of the constituency that I have the honour to represent. Waterloo South, which with its counterpart of Waterloo North makes up the whole of Waterloo county, is situated in the middle of southwestern Ontario, and comprises rich agricultural lands, a great dairy industry, the raising of beef and cattle, grain, vegetables, fruits and extensive mixed farming. Coupled with this is a great industrial complex. In the north, in Kitchener and Waterloo, there are great rubber and tire plants, furniture factories, distilleries, television and appliance factories, an electronics industry and many others. Besides, it is a centre for great insurance and financial institutions.

Again, in Waterloo South, in the centres of Galt, Preston, and Hespeler, there is a great variety of industry ranging from heavy steel fabrication through textiles, plastics, furniture, electrical devices and so on. I merely mention this, Mr. Speaker, in order to illustrate the fact that we have a great and progressive farming community and a great and expanding industrial area which employ and provide a livelihood for thousands of our population. We have what I would call a well balanced economy. We enjoy these advantages. We are, of course aware of the problems that beset both agriculture and industry.

As to the origin of the people in this area, in the north they are largely German or Pennsylvania Dutch, and in the south around Galt and Ayr they are predominantly Scottish.

To those members here of Scottish ancestry I might say that only recently a very charming young lady from Galt, in the person of Miss Ann Gall, won the championship at the Scottish dancing festival in Edinburgh. I am told that this is the first time that anyone outside of Scotland has won such an honour. You can see, Mr. Speaker, that we have a very progressive community and one that still treasures its history and traditions.

The legislation that has been proposed in the speech from the throne must be considered in relation to what this government has already accomplished, the record this government has established, and the implementation of its undertakings to the people of this country. At this time I should like to deal with agriculture, not only because of its major importance to the country and to my community, but because one of the great problems of certain phases of agriculture has been the generation of huge surpluses. The taxpayer of this country is very conscious of this situation, particularly if he is called upon to support these surpluses by huge subsidies.

One of the long term plans of the Department of Agriculture contemplates encouraging some of the farmers, particularly dairy farmers, to change to the production of beef cattle. In this country today there is a great demand for beef cattle. In the next 12 years we shall have to increase our beef cattle population by seven million head. This is a profitable business, but it presents certain problems, particularly to those engaged in dairy farming. The dairy farmer has been accustomed to selling his milk daily and getting returns on a weekly basis or some regular one. A difficulty of financing is presented when he gets a return only once a year at a time when he sells his beef cattle.

This whole problem ties in with the long term objectives of A.R.D.A., the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act, and contemplates making better use of marginal lands