

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with the new Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) in extending warm congratulations to the mover (Mr. Hanna) and the seconder (Mr. Robichaud) of the address. Since I follow the Leader of the Opposition I wish to extend some congratulations to him, perhaps especially on the fact that he left the most violent of his impeachments of the government to the terms of his motion rather than stating them publicly in the house. But the motion ends in this way: Your Excellency's advisers, for the reasons stated: . . . are not entitled to the confidence of this house and have lost the confidence of the people of Canada.

Well, as to the confidence of the house, there will be an early test of that assertion of the new Leader of the Opposition, and we shall then count noses and see whether his appreciation of the temper of the house is any more accurate than that of some of his predecessors in past years. There is also the impression throughout the country, which I am not going to attempt to dispel this afternoon, that there may be before very many months an opportunity for the people of Canada to say whether or not they agree with his statement that the government has lost the confidence of the people of Canada.

Now, perhaps my answer to the hon. gentleman might sound more appropriate if I began with the last items he dealt with and then gradually moved up toward the first. At the end of his speech he was dealing with agriculture, about which he seemed to say that this horrible conduct of the United States must in some way be stopped. Well, it reminded me of an assertion of one of his predecessors that Canada was going to blast her way into world markets. This was a suggestion that Canada, in the view of the hon. gentleman, should blast the United States out of the policies decided on by its congress. Well, I do not think that his suggestion would be more successful in achieving the objective, which is the very desirable objective of having competition on the normal basis which existed in the years gone by, than the other was. I do not think that it would be any more successful in blasting the United States out of that kind of conduct than were the attempts to blast Canada's way into world markets by an imperial conference held here in Ottawa and other measures which were perhaps intended to be covered by the expression "blast"; but the detonation of which was not very loud, not very resounding, throughout the world.

The Address—Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent

With respect to agriculture, it might be of some interest to the house if I were to put on the record just a few statistical figures of what has been happening in the past year. During the crop year of 1955-56 August 1 to December 28 the marketings of all grains, were 161.7 million bushels. During the same period of this year they happened to have been 239.8 million bushels, an increase of 78 million bushels over the preceding year. The shipments from country points in 1955 were 163.3 million bushels. In the crop year 1956-57 they were 248.2 million bushels, an increase of 84.9 million bushels. The cars loaded during the same period in the 1955-56 crop year were 96,000. The cars loaded in the crop year 1956-57 were 132,000. The lake and rail shipments for the 1955-56 were 122 million bushels. In 1956-57 they were 173 million bushels, an increase of 51 million bushels. The shipments from the Pacific coast in 1955-56 amounted to 32.8 million bushels, and in 1956-57 it was 53.7 million bushels, a difference of 20.9 million bushels, and that has resulted in a difference in cash distributed to the western producers of some \$150 million. In Manitoba in 1955 it was \$48,270,000; in 1956 it was \$70,692,000 for the first nine months of the years 1955 and 1956. In Saskatchewan, instead of \$215 million—I am leaving off the hundreds of thousands, but in some cases they are important—it was \$322,700,000. In Alberta, instead of \$111 million, it was \$132,800,000, or a total for those nine months of the two last years of \$374,681,000 in 1955 and \$526,248,000 in 1956. Well, we would all have been happy had it been more, but it does not show that there have been, because of this "give-away" problem, any greater difficulties in marketing Canadian wheat than there had been before.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is not what the wheat board says.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): But notwithstanding that, I was very happy when, toward the end of my short holiday in Florida, I received a telephone call from the White House that the president would be glad if I would drop off at Augusta, Georgia, on my way back, have lunch with him and have a game of golf. Well I found in fact, you know, that a game of golf with one of those electric go-carts was about the best way to have an international conference because you are getting off the go-cart quite frequently for only a couple of minutes but for time enough to reflect on what has been said up to that moment and to reflect on what is going to be said when you get back on the seat of the go-cart. I can assure the