

The Address—Mr. Gass

matter what the product, we on Prince Edward Island are proud of what we produce, and equally proud of the hard working people who produce it.

Much of the same thing could be said of the fisheries industry in Malpeque as has been said of the agricultural industry. Malpeque is well known for its lobster and its lobster suppers, its oysters, and for its giant blue fin tuna.

Some hon. Members: M-m-m-m-m-m!

Mr. Gass: During the often too short fishing seasons, men and women work long and hard to bring in the products of the sea for which Prince Edward Island is famous. It was especially encouraging for me to see that the future development of our fisheries resources was considered in the Speech from the Throne. Such development is necessary if those who live off the sea are to continue to live as they have, and to further improve their lot. Canada needs its fisheries industry, and only through expansion and improvement of the industry will our country be able to maintain its position as one of the major fishing and fish exporting nations of the world.

I have already had occasion to mention how proud we are in Prince Edward Island of our products which possess such high quality. This quality has been the result of a collective effort on the part of the people, the result of good, honest, hard work. For the people who live from the land and the sea, work is not a four-letter word. They are proud of what they do and proud of the effort they put into doing it. I am sorry to say that the general attitude toward work has changed over the past half century as science and technology became more advanced. At one time work was a source of pride and joy for all men and women. It is our duty not only to stimulate the economy by providing more jobs, but we must also seek the means to create a greater desire in the populace to be employed.

Work is not a burden to be endured or avoided but should be looked on as a source of pride, a sense of accomplishment and achievement for a job well done. As a member of the PC caucus committee on tourism, one of the highlights of the Speech from the Throne for me was the fact that mention was made of the tourism industry, and I quote: "In co-operation with the provinces and industry, a national tourism strategy will be developed."

In Prince Edward Island tourism, along with agriculture and fisheries, is one of the three major industries and sources of revenue and one of the fastest growing industries on the island. As I have already had occasion to note, we in the constituency of Malpeque are blessed with beautiful, sandy beaches. Malpeque is the home of Prince Edward Island's only national park, which stretches for approximately 21 miles along the island's north shore and which is perhaps Prince Edward Island's most famous landmark and tourist haven. My riding is also recognized worldwide as the home of Anne of Green Gables, the fictitious little island girl made famous by island born authoress, Lucy Maude Montgomery. Lucy Maude, well known for her "Anne" stories, has also immortalized the beauty of and her love for the island, in her poetry. "The Island Hymn," written by Miss Montgomery, expresses her

[Mr. Gass.]

feelings as well as those of many islanders. With Your Honour's permission, I will quote it:

Fair island of the sea,
We raise our song to thee,
The bright and blest;
Loyally now we stand
As brothers, hand in hand,
And sing God save the land
We love the best.
Upon our princely isle
May kindest fortune smile
In coming years;
Peace and prosperity
In all her borders be,
From every evil free,
and weakling fears.
Prince Edward Isle, to thee
Our hearts shall faithful be,
Where'er we dwell;
Forever may we stand
As brothers, hand in hand,
And sing God save the land
We love so well.

People who "come in from away" to Prince Edward Island are not disappointed, for islanders put their heart and soul into making their province a place where visitors can relax and enjoy themselves, and learn what good, simple living is all about. During the summer months our tourism industry not only employs thousands of our students, but provides an income for many families, one which they live on year round. Thus tourism is of the utmost importance to Malpeque, Prince Edward Island, and Canada as a whole.

The fact is that tourism in Canada is an \$11 billion business accounting for 5 per cent of the gross national product, and employing one person in every ten. Eighty per cent of the tourist businesses are classified as small business. For too many years this important sector of the economy was virtually overlooked by previous administrations, and this must be changed. The government must also endeavour to develop a program of awareness for the public of Canada. Canadians all across the country should be made aware of the importance of the tourist industry to the economy and to the country. If tourism is to succeed and flourish as a major industry in Canada, it is of the greatest importance that the Canadian people understand its great and valued impact on the country.

Transportation is another major concern of mine, Mr. Speaker, for in order to serve our basic industries in Prince Edward Island we need adequate transportation systems; better ferries, better roads, and improved rail and air services to and on the island. In order for our agriculture and fisheries industries to remain viable, an upgrading of the systems that transport their products to markets must take place. Such upgrading in reference to Prince Edward Island would include better roads, better port facilities, and improved ferry and rail service, and an overhaul of air service. The tourism industry also depends heavily on how efficiently the transportation