

(Text):

It is another example of the sincere effort being made to promote Canadian unity. Last year, during my visit to the city of Toronto I was greatly impressed by the cordiality extended to us of Quebec. It was proof that we are all Canadians.

(Translation):

As for the opposition, it may be assumed that they have little to complain about in the present state of affairs. Let us therefore wish them continued happiness without too much opposition from those who are not in the ranks of the opposition, all within the bounds of the dignity and courtesy which are the traditional hallmarks of our parliamentary system.

Our government is far from spurning progress. On the contrary, it is always prepared to undertake works that are considered necessary anywhere in the country.

Among the main projects now being considered, mention should be made first of the proposed dam on the South Saskatchewan river.

A commission has been formed to study the economic aspects of this vast project which, as is well known, has caused much controversy.

If money can profitably be spent on this project, the government, ever faithful to its policy of progress and development, will take all the necessary steps and will show in this important matter that it is equal to the situation.

Another government project concerns the province of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Island. It contemplates the construction of a causeway across the strait of Canso, establishing a connection between the island and the continent in order to facilitate the means of communication and, in particular, the shipping of coal out of Cape Breton.

The government has appointed a committee to inquire, in co-operation with Nova Scotia, into the technical and economical aspects of the project.

It was found that these works were necessary to the economy of our country. Reference to the realization of this project is contained in the speech from the throne. This is additional proof of the progressive and enlightened policy of the government. The whole of our population is in favour of such a causeway.

Another problem that dwells heavily on everybody's mind is the St. Lawrence seaway project. The digging of a maritime canal stretching over such a long distance is a tremendous undertaking. However, the expenditure involved in carrying out this

*The Address—Mr. Cauchon*

project will be vastly compensated by the resulting increase of our hydroelectric resources, and the advantages of a new commercial waterway available to the west.

The effects of this development of our national wealth will be widely felt outside our country and more specifically on the whole North American continent. It seems evident at first glance that many and wonderful benefits are to be derived from this project.

Considering that the normal flow of the St. Lawrence river is 250,000 cubic feet per second, and that every foot difference in level of such flow carries more than 20,000 horsepower, the difference in level between lake Superior and Montreal being near 600 feet, there would be about 10,000,000 horsepower developed in that part of the river only.

Is that not enough for the whole Canadian population to be interested in the seaway project? There are many drawbacks to our present waterway system, and many ferries could well be eliminated.

Our experts all agree on the usefulness of a deep waterway. Shipping would be faster and cheaper; railway transport has proven inadequate to date and is far from meeting present needs.

In improving the shipping of commodities and goods, tremendous assistance would be provided to agriculture, industry and trade.

Our engineers unanimously recognize that the harnessing of the St. Lawrence would increase our motive power and at the same time establish a more efficient trade route from east to west as in the opposite direction.

Can the Canadian nation remain unconcerned by a project which would allow, according to Dr. Harold G. Moulton, author of "The St. Lawrence and Navigation Projects," the shipping of about 10 million tons of goods?

In order to progress efficiently and to cope with our competitors, we are duty bound to develop our sources of electrical power by harnessing our great river. We must also encourage trade and commerce by improving means of communications across our vast territory. The St. Lawrence waterway project is the answer to all those needs; we should therefore direct our best attention and energy to its achievement.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all members of the house, may I express the wish that our people will continue to place their confidence in our Prime Minister, whose ideals and aspirations all converge toward an end so dear to his heart, national unity, so that Canada may become greater and stronger and fulfil her noble mission in the great family of nations.