

The Address—Mr. W. J. Browne

he road is built from Port aux Basques even to Corner Brook it will open up perhaps the richest part of our country and the most attractive part from the tourists' point of view. All the beautiful salmon rivers to which so many United States tourists come every year will then be open to them to drive along. Further than that, I believe that it will open up good land. Land will be accessible and people will be able to get easily to the markets and to the railway. If this road is built in our country, and I trust that it will be, and if the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) takes the interest that I hope he will take in our country, I believe the country will make some progress.

But there is another feature about the system of highways in Newfoundland to which I should like to direct attention. This devaluation of the pound will have serious repercussions on our principal exports; and we are a large exporting country in proportion to our total trade. We send to Europe fish for which we have been paid in sterling, now blocked on the other side. We send iron ore to England. Before the war we sent a great deal of ore to Germany. We send paper to England. I saw in the newspapers only today statements by the managers of the two paper companies at Grand Falls and Corner Brook expressing serious concern at the situation that has now arisen. The manager at Bell Island says that it is going to create new difficulties in the exportation of their ore. That is another reason for the difficulties. But the first reason, which I did not mention, was that already there has been a sort of depression in Newfoundland. I will not blame it on confederation. I think I would rather blame it on the Liberal victory. The rosy promises that were held out about the boom that was going to take place and the prosperity that was going to be everywhere have not been fulfilled. Family allowances are a good thing. I think I was the first one in Newfoundland to advocate them. If our own responsible government had been restored to us when it should have been restored I believe we would have had family allowances before you did in Canada, Mr. Speaker. But these things are not sufficient to make up for the people over sixteen and under seventy who are out of work. We need employment; we need development in agriculture; and we need prosperous fisheries. This year in many places the fisheries have been far from prosperous. Already there has been curtailment in work in the woods. Lumbermen have been sent home earlier than usual. There is to be curtailment in the manufacture of sulphite pulp in Corner Brook. It will be seen what all these things add up to, namely, that

the government of the province of Newfoundland from its inception is faced with extremely serious financial and economic difficulties.

There is one other thing in the speech from the throne to which I should like to make reference and it has been extensively referred to here today. I refer to the housing situation. I intend to mention some examples of housing in various places, and first of all I shall mention housing in Ottawa. It is regrettable that so distinguished a person as the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) should find it difficult to get a place to live. I think it is really pathetic, and it is not worthy of this country that he should be placed in a difficulty of that kind. But anyone who picks up the Ottawa papers and reads the advertisements of "apartments wanted" will find a situation that I think is un-Christian. We find such examples as these: "Quiet young couple with no children", "Married couple with no children seek apartment", and so on. Several advertisements point out the fact that the seekers for accommodation have no children. Last summer in Trepassey, a little settlement in my district, I met a lady who was married in Toronto. I said, "I thought you were living in Toronto." She said, "No, I had to come home. For four months I walked the streets of Toronto looking for a place for our family, and everywhere I went I was asked, 'Have you any children?' I said 'yes.' I was then told, 'Sorry, we do not take families with children.'" She said to them, "What am I supposed to do with my children? Shoot them?" I hope in a moment to make reference to this matter again. But it is not surprising that the government is criticized for its failure with regard to the housing problem when I saw an advertisement like this in the paper a couple of days ago under "apartments wanted":

Two permanent government girls, or small bachelor suitable for one girl.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): I did not read all the advertisement. The end of the advertisement reads "reliable".

In contrast, sir, to the treatment which was accorded to the lady to whom I referred as walking the streets looking for a place for her two children, I should like to draw attention to a gentleman who was written up in the *Globe and Mail* of Toronto yesterday morning. The item refers to Mr. R. L. Parratt of Kingston:

Ross M. Richardson of the firm of Mitchell and Wilson, general contractors of Gananogue, also a war veteran, has a financial interest with Mr. Parratt in the building of apartments—

where married people with children can live. I believe, sir, that man deserves the acclama-