

The Address—Mr. Low

make housing loans on mortgages as security. That, it seems to me, is evidence that the government realizes there is a certain degree of deflation in Canada. I do not know of any other possible reason why this particular procedure should have been adopted. I support the idea, of course, of making more mortgage money available for the building of homes for our increasing population. At the same time I am perfectly sure that if the Finance Act of 1914 were used to finance shipments of foods to underdeveloped countries, as I have suggested, the effect would be to help restore the balance of purchasing power with production, which in itself would doubtless result in increasing the amount of money available for housing and would relieve that situation within a reasonable time.

It must be a source of great satisfaction to every true Canadian, as it was to me, to note the remarkable development that is taking place in our great country today. There is no doubt that Canada is in the midst of a remarkable development, and I would not at any time try to minimize it; but we in this group do try to envisage what our country could be if really sound principles of finance, taxation and trade were adopted and followed by the government. Our country and its economy could be a beacon, a shining light to all the world; but we still have within our borders many thousands of human beings who are forced to exist at or below the borderline of poverty at a time when our storehouses are bulging with production for which we have no ready market at all.

As long as there is left one single vestige of injustice or of insecurity or of special privilege, there is ample justification for the existence and activities of movements like the one which I have the honour to lead in this country. We have no party machine, and consequently we are not forced to follow the spoils system with its patronage and its denial in the government of the will of the people.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Low: Mr. Speaker, His Excellency's speech declares that Canada enjoys general prosperity. Although that is so, there are some sectors, it is admitted, which have been faced with difficulties. I wish to say that some parts of Canada of which I have knowledge are not receiving their just share of the development that is taking place. The maritimes have, in the past, been robbed of a fair share of industrialization; and my

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own country, the Peace river country, cannot possibly enjoy anything like its potential development because that development is blocked by the lack of railway facilities. For 30 years now it has been known that the Peace river country could not enjoy equal opportunities with other parts of Canada, such as in the matter of costs of production, marketing, industrialization and so on, unless a rail outlet to the Pacific coast were provided and the necessity of the present long back-haul of 350 miles were abolished.

During those 30 years a Pacific coast outlet for the great Peace river country has been promised by all political parties. In fact it has been made a political football during election after election. It seems to me it is time to stop playing with the situation. At this time I call upon the federal government to take the lead in early action that will result in a rail link with the Pacific coast for the Peace river bloc of Alberta and British Columbia. Since the Northern Alberta railway which at present runs from Edmonton into the area enjoys a monopoly and is an interprovincial railway which comes under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government it seems quite clear that the federal government is the authority that must take action if a rail link to the west coast is to be provided.

It seems clear too, Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian Pacific Railway is not at all interested in supporting the extension of the Northern Alberta Railways line to the west coast so the situation remains stalemated. In my opinion the only way the great northern empire of Peace river can develop properly and play its full share in the Canadian economy is to have the stalemate ended by the only government that has the authority to end it, that is this government. The Peace river country has a real and important part to play in making Canada the great nation she can become. I shall probably have more to say about this matter at another time, but let me just conclude this part of my address by stating that His Excellency's address does recognize the strategic importance of that great northern part of Canada. His speech made some proposals for bringing about development in other sections, and I say that these same propositions ought to hold for the Peace river area.

The farmers of our country, Mr. Speaker, and agriculturists generally are facing a real crisis. The carryover of grain from previous years, together with a bumper harvest this year, have taxed storage facilities throughout the whole country away beyond their capacity. Great quantities of good food are piled on the ground, exposed to the elements, in every part of Canada. It is bound to