

The Address—Mr. W. J. Browne

what is going to become of it? It is going to go back 450 years and become what it was in Cabot's day, just a fishing vessel moored to the banks. If we want to see that country develop, we have to develop its agriculture. Agriculture is the basic industry of Canada and of the province of Newfoundland. It will surprise hon. members to know that we can produce all the agricultural products that we need. I am thinking now of vegetables. I am not going to say that we could produce all the milk, butter and meat. We could do that, but perhaps it would be at too great a cost. It would be a comparatively simple thing to produce all the vegetables that we need. I am going to tell hon. members that the quality of the vegetables we produce in Newfoundland is as good as any that you will find in Canada, so far as I can see.

I noticed in the report of the Duncan commission of 1926 that the same thing happened in Nova Scotia after confederation. The people got into the habit of importing their produce. They brought in from outside Nova Scotia huge quantities of agricultural products that they could have produced themselves.

In Newfoundland before confederation we were accustomed to our own legislation. We did the best we could. We had a railway and we had a few highroads. We did the best we could with public health. Nevertheless our population increased at a higher rate than that of the maritimes. It did not increase at a higher rate than Canada generally. It is very hard to calculate the actual natural increase in Canada because there is so much immigration into this country, but we were increasing when Prince Edward Island was decreasing. In 1910 the population was 220,000. Today it is nearly 350,000. It will not stay at that figure very long if the factories are closing down in St. John's and Bell island ore is to be curtailed. If we cannot sell our fish and the produce from the maritimes is to be sent down there, who is going to stay in Newfoundland?

I am aware of the great benefits that we receive from the social services in this country provided by the federal government. The old age pensions have brought blessings to many an old man and woman. Family allowances, which I have advocated personally since 1938, have brought untold blessings to hundreds of families in Newfoundland, but I think hon. members will agree when I say that a country cannot exist on those things alone. They have social benefits in the province of Quebec and those who are unemployed at the head of the lakes get unemployment relief, but are they satisfied? Who would be satisfied? Certainly no man or woman over 16 years of age and

under 70 years would want to stay in a country for the sake of those things. They will leave and come up here to swell the ranks of your unemployed, or perhaps try to get to the United States.

The greatest advocate of confederation in our country stated the same thing that I am stating now. He has said that the future of Newfoundland depends, not on these things but on the energy and ability of the people. They must "produce or die" and it is the intention of the present provincial government to "make her or break her" in the next three years. I am afraid that honourable gentleman will break his heart before he will be able to succeed under such circumstances unless he gets the assistance he should have had in the first place by way of a substantial annual grant from the federal treasury.

Any reasonable man listening to these desperate statements can come to no other conclusion than that confederation in itself has not meant the salvation of Newfoundland. Hon. members here have been most kind and gracious to us all. They frequently say to me, "How are things down home?" I would like to be able to say they are fine, but I must say, "I am sorry to tell you that they are not so good." Then hon. members get a little disinterested, they become a little bored, but I tell them that it is true. Industry is slowing down and places are closing. At Bell island two great mines have closed down and the third one is working on short shifts. We had a contract for ten years with Great Britain for 1,250,000 tons of ore. That was reduced to 300,000, and then that was wiped out. We had a contract to sell 350,000 tons of ore to Germany, but that is gone. All that is left is the market at Sydney. I ask the government on behalf of this poor little sister, this new little sister of Newfoundland: Cannot you give us some help in selling that ore to Great Britain? I am sure that the Secretary of State for External Affairs is a most influential man in the United Nations and he should be able to have funds provided so that Germany can take that 350,000 tons. That would make all the difference between poverty and wealth in my hon. friend's constituency of St. John's East.

These men work very hard. If it is hard for John L. Lewis' coal miners to shovel coal for \$14.75 or \$15 per day with other bonuses, how hard do you think it is to shovel iron ore which weighs much more? If hon. members were to try that for a day I think it would be a good thing. If we went down in the mine for a day we would have more sympathy with miners than perhaps we have at the present time.