

*The Address—Mrs. Rideout*

tries as fisheries, farming, lumbering, transportation, manufacturing, and now chemicals.

We have foundries in Sackville, where stoves and furnaces have been made for more than a century, and which are now competing effectively with the most modern anywhere. I was interested to learn last Fall that they are even making components for United States aircraft companies. We also build boats in Westmorland and we have a major tourist trade which is growing constantly.

We have also a Federal penitentiary, and I am pleased to have noted the Minister's announcement last Fall of new facilities at Dorchester for maximum security prisoners. It will give employment during construction which will be helpful to the immediate area.

While I am in a thanking mood, I want to express also our appreciation for assistance which has been announced for a new crossing of our famous Petitcodiac River at Moncton. This river has a world phenomenon in its tidal bore—and I trust its only bore—which hon. Members would find fascinating on a visit.

Moncton has grown extensively in recent years and its over-the-river suburbs have created serious traffic problems. The river crossing is a direct route to the magnificent Fundy National Park, a major tourist centre. These and other considerations make an additional river crossing a vital economic necessity, so that I hope no delay will result in implementing the scheme.

Mr. Speaker, in recent months there has been an interesting discussion proceeding in the Atlantic Provinces about the subject of Maritime union. The Premier of New Brunswick raised the prospect in an appropriate place and at an appropriate time, upon the centenary of the Charlottetown Confederation meetings.

Discussions will start soon, which may one day lead to the union of the Atlantic Provinces. This is a far-sighted and imaginative scheme which may not be so distant as some believe. It may be more difficult than if it had been done a hundred years ago, when first attempted, but the economy of our day will in the end make it more logical and more feasible.

Already, we have achieved a good deal of co-operation in various ways; some of it economic co-operation and some of it social. This is almost certain to increase, and the very fact the central Government is treating the Atlantic Provinces as a unit through the

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Atlantic Development Board is an indication of the direction being taken.

Until all the factors concerned are studied deeply and widely, I would not want to take a firm position. I think that is the attitude of the Governments of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, which are now approaching the study.

It may well be that the first step toward complete union would be an economic union of the four Provinces. On the other hand, the first step may prove to be the union of the two largest Provinces, which will lead to a more complete union later.

I would be remiss as the representative of Westmorland if I did not at once claim my home City of Moncton as the capital of the future united Provinces. It is the geographic centre, the transportation and distribution centre, and will soon be the economic centre. Since, Mr. Speaker, there are almost certain to be other claimants, and perhaps some little debate over such a delicate decision, I rest my case at this point with the entry of Moncton as the logical candidate.

As I said in the beginning, we are an old part of Canada which is very much a part of the new Canada this Government is doing so much to build. A lot of this new spirit may be attributed to the Leader of this Government. No man understands this country better; none better knows its place in the world and what it can do in the world. We in this country are in what might well be called a reconstruction area.

There have been strains in our national fabric, but this is no new thing for Canada. As a federated country, we have never been without them, but strains do not need to result in tearing if the fabric is strong. Our basic fabric is strong, because our people are strong, because we have learned the value of weaving quality materials into the fabric—mixed materials which are the stronger for being different.

If ever there was danger of Canada flying apart—a condition to which I would not subscribe—that danger has been minimized by the Right Hon. Prime Minister. No man in our time is better fitted than he is for the diplomatic job of holding this country together and making it a great country. No man has had the courage to move as he has done to act on the convictions which he believes will cement our nationhood. As against those whose ambition is only to divide us—and to divide is to destroy—he has been a force for unity and hope. I am proud to be his follower and supporter. With him, and