

The Address—Mr. P. Gauthier

of Public Works to frown. Even so, I still say that this project is necessary and unavoidable for reasons which I shall mention as briefly as possible.

The parishes concerned, the parishes of the district of Portneuf, fully aware of the necessity of this ferry have asked me to submit resolutions they have sent me to the Minister of Public Works and to the government in order that the necessary appropriations for digging the channel may be made. The parishes of Deschambault, Grondines, St. Casimir, St. Alban, Donnacona, Portneuf and St. Marc des Carrières, have sent me resolutions asking that these works be undertaken. The reason is that because of a considerable trade in fertilizers between the counties of Lotbinière and Portneuf, the digging of this channel has become absolutely necessary.

In St. Marc, they use a fertilizer known under the name "Calco", made up of pulverized stone. Farmers use it to increase the yield of their land. It is manufactured by the Deschambault quarries which sometimes employs about five hundred men during the year. Four other limestone quarries are located at St. Marc des Carrières and produce cut stone. Altogether these quarries employ over a thousand men. St. Marc des Carrières is the centre of a considerable trade which, from an economic standpoint, interests not only my constituency but also that of the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Lapointe), who knows what I am talking about and is familiar with the situation.

A resolution was forwarded to the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier) requesting that certain works be carried out. I know that the hon. the Solicitor General is aware of the farmers' needs and that he will support my request to the Minister of Public Works and to the government.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the amount of money spent on those works may seem very high with respect to the needs of those two areas, but they are not for those digging operations are absolutely essential to the development of those areas. Indeed they will promote the welfare of farmers and workers of St. Marc des Carrières and many other parishes in the constituency. These vast works would also be important from a touristic standpoint,

[Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf).]

as a ferryboat would operate 24 hours a day, eight months a year, and the money thus brought in could be spent in those two counties. I feel it would be superfluous to quote figures on the production of the various quarries I just mentioned: Deschambault Quarries, Gingras et Fils, Standard Lime, Canada Lime and J. O. Gauthier, Ltd.

Other parishes have also sent me requests. I hope that my efforts and those of the hon. member for Lotbinière will be successful and that the government will grant our request. It is fair and reasonable and is prompted by a real need. At any rate if the government can perform these works, they will be of great benefit.

I trust I have been able, in my brief remarks, to fully convince the Minister of Public Works and the government of the necessity of these works. I trust they will carefully consider the requests of the members for Lotbinière and Portneuf and see that the work is done during the summer so that the farmers, first of all, and then the labourers and the tourists may at last benefit from this absolutely essential ferryboat.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have a matter which may concern the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. McCann) rather than the Minister of Public Works. I see the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) is laughing but I shall come to it later.

Mr. Chevrier: I expected it sooner.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): I recently received from La Corporation de St. Marc des Carrières a resolution in which I am asked to bring pressure to bear on the government so that work on the drainage of the various quarries I have mentioned may be started. I wish, Mr. Speaker, to read the whole of this resolution dated November 21, 1949:

Whereas important drainage operations have already begun within the municipal limits;

Whereas the municipality must, in order to complete said projects, make a considerable outlay;

Whereas such drainage works are of vital importance to the operators of our quarries and, consequently, to the whole population;

Whereas the development of these quarries comes under the federal Department of Mines;

Be it therefore moved by Omer Béland, seconded by Henri Petitclerc and resolved unanimously:

That a request be made to the Minister of Mines with a view to securing a grant of \$25,000 for completion of these important undertakings. And that a copy of this resolution be sent to our federal member of parliament, Dr. Pierre Gauthier.