

The Address—Mr. Gosselin

we like it or not, there is therefore nothing left for us but co-operation in economic as well as in military affairs.

(Translation):

Mr. H. A. Gosselin (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, this is the first time I have the privilege of speaking in this house, and I do so with great pride.

My first duty is to join with those who have already congratulated you on your appointment to the speakership of the house; my second, to tell you that the constituency I have the honour to represent here is located on the United States boundary and adjoins the eastern townships.

My constituency is above all deeply concerned with industry and agriculture, as also with all the great principles on which the progress of the country is based.

Brome-Missisquoi county is made up of French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians. I am the spokesman of both, indiscriminatingly. For years, we have quite successfully maintained friendly relations between these two elements. Unity exists among them; we are convinced that a country's greatness is based upon mutual understanding. We feel that proof of this was furnished during the last electoral campaign, for the honour and welfare of Canada.

The success obtained by our soldiers overseas is due to mutual understanding and devotion to those great principles that go to make up unity. The extent of Canada's effort was shown by the quality of her military personnel and the untiring labour of those who remained behind to produce weapons for our men overseas.

Mr. Speaker, in my constituency may be found all that tourists may wish for in the way of mountains, valleys or wide open spaces. The main highway takes them through mountains and plains where dairy farming is the main pursuit, coming immediately before agriculture. Our green fields, great orchards and vast sugar bushes remain forever impressed on their memory, so much so that their one wish afterwards is to return to us.

I am proud to tell the members of this house that I am a farmer. Having been in the employ of the Canadian Pacific Railway for several years, I may say however that Canada has a railway transportation system, for freight and passengers, which offers advantages and resources that can only help to make Canada a great country. I might say that Canada has the best transportation system in the world, considering the population of the country.

Our agricultural class is definitely well developed. Western Canada grows wheat

but in eastern Canada the dairying industry is foremost. Those two branches of agriculture are for us a guarantee. In fact, the farming population is the fundamental basis of a country's prosperity. It is a financial guarantee and a protection for the people since it provides all their needs. I believe it is my duty to request the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) to carry on his useful work on behalf of our farming population and to provide the required incentive so that our young men may be interested in remaining on the land of their forefathers; otherwise our young people will be driven to the cities, which will spell disaster. It is imperative, as I said, that the Minister of Agriculture should continue his admirable work, so that the farmers will not be neglected and that they may have every possible inducement. It will be the only means of keeping our young people on the land. Failing that, they will migrate to cities, abandoning the family farms. I am happy to say that the farming community is made up of proud people, ready to ensure the plentiful production on which depends our survival as a people.

If every possible help is given to them, the farmers will be able to produce much more, and sell a much larger quantity of products, which will enable them better to balance their family budgets.

I have often been told, Mr. Speaker, that the agricultural class are not prosperous. I do not share that opinion. On the contrary, being myself a farmer, I note that they are prosperous. However, they will continue to be prosperous in so far as they are ensured and guaranteed a reasonable remuneration for their work. Otherwise the agricultural class will disappear, which will spell great disaster. May I say again that we have to give that class some guarantee by granting subsidies, building warehouses where our products can be stored, and sparing it from excessive taxation. We also have to guarantee the farmer prices at least equal to his production costs.

I know that the Minister of Agriculture has taken the necessary steps to build these warehouses all over the country. On behalf of the constituency I have the honour to represent, I also wish to congratulate and thank him for having undertaken various projects in the east.

In our farming district of eastern Canada, various people connected with the sale of dairy produce are sacrificing our goods to the canning industry. I know that the minister is investigating the sale of these products in order that our farmers may face a brighter future.

There is a disease which is proving most harmful to cattle in every province. The