

*The Address—Mr. A. L. Smith*

portion of Canada where, in view of the dollar situation, a great contribution might be made to ourselves, while at the same time assisting our railway people and all others who would be engaged in the transportation of that product. I know we have certain subventions in railway rates.

I pay great compliment to my old friend Frank Neate who, I believe, knows more about coal matters in Canada than anyone else in Canada. I would mention, too, Dr. Camsell, whom I met in the elevator only yesterday. But it does seem to me there is a real opportunity for reconsideration and restudy of this whole problem.

We are told—and I am sure it is true—that our No. 1 currency difficulty is in connection with the securing of American dollars for the purchase of coal in the United States. I make these observations, not in any critical sense at all, but merely as a suggestion to those who are responsible, and would urge my view that this is an excellent time to re-examine the whole problem. The benefits to Canada as a whole are certainly large; the prize is worth while. It is worth examination and striving for to bring about unity in our country—and I mean unity in the economy of our country. Perhaps it would bring us together and do all of us a great deal of good if we were to examine that problem.

I apologize to you, sir, and to my old personal friend and political colleague for having interrupted him a moment ago when he referred to the transportation of oil. Let me say that the increase in the production of oil in Alberta is nothing less than phenomenal. I do not think anyone can laugh off 65,000 barrels a day. That can be greatly increased, of course, the moment we are able to bring it to market. It seems to me the only solution of this whole problem is that our oil from Alberta should find outlets in the United States, and that oil from the United States on an exchange basis should enter eastern Canada, thereby making our dollar situation infinitely easier and giving us a tremendous shield by way of markets.

I am sure we would find that our American cousins would agree with that, because we know that in so far as new discoveries are concerned in the United States, they are not beginning to keep up with the consumption of the product in that country. May I, to my good friends from Saskatchewan, and particularly my hon. friend the member for Meadow Lake (Mr. Harrison), who spoke a moment ago, give a little bit of good news—theoretical as it may be. Some weeks ago I spent an evening with an old friend who, I believe, is the outstanding geologist in that country, and who has had longer experience there than

anyone else. I refer to my friend Dr. Ted Tink, who was with the Imperial Oil Company, but who is now retired and acts as a consultant. He showed me a map showing what is called the sedimentary basin—because it is admitted now by all geologists that oil comes from the dissolution of marine life in sediment.

So we have this sedimentary basin; and there is a trifle more of it in Saskatchewan than there is in Alberta. From a geological standpoint, that sedimentary basin in those two provinces is larger than any or all similar basins in the United States—Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Michigan, Illinois, and all those states where oil is found.

I mention this to put before the house not the certainty, probably not the probability, but certainly the possibility in that tremendous prairie area of an oil field greater than this world has ever known. We need not speak of the economic possibilities of that; do not let us confine it to its equivalent in American dollars. Let us think of it on the basis that perhaps—and God forbid—we may be in another war. Everyone knows now that wars are fought on gasoline. With the exception of a small amount of oil from the Roumanian fields, the Germans fought the last several years of the last war on synthetic gasoline made from coal. Here we are in this country with amazing coal deposits. Scientists have not changed the volume. It is still 14 per cent of the world's known coal deposits.

I have mentioned these things because they are problems for study, and may throw some light on our future. I am sick and tired of listening to people who point out to me the difficulty we are in and the certainty of depressions—and even collapse—next year or the year after. I am thoroughly fed up with all those people who tell us about the housing difficulties—and there are difficulties—and about the small amounts of money that some of our people earn.

These things are true. Then they blame it all on the system known as the free enterprise system, individual enterprise—call it what you like. But, admitting there are many things wrong, I think it is just about time to say that the people who do all this complaining would not be here if it were not for that same system. Let us never forget that, while there are things wrong with it, you don't throw the baby out with the bath water. You try to improve the system, if you have a nickel's worth of brains in your head; and you do not try to destroy the thing and start all over again from nothing.

You will remind yourself, Mr. Speaker,—and you are younger than I am—that in your time we got the telephone and the electric