

*Atlantic Development Board*

we have in Canada is the contribution which emigrants from that area have made to other parts of Canada. It has been said more than once that the greatest export from the Atlantic provinces has been their trained, professional and technical people. I am sure that each one of us, regardless of what part of Canada we come from, can readily recognize the truth of that statement as we recall friends and acquaintances who came originally from that area.

On behalf of all of us in our corner of the house, Mr. Chairman, I count it a pleasure to associate myself with the debate that is now beginning in connection with the announcement made this afternoon by the Minister of National Revenue. I trust, however, that the Atlantic development board will not be just another board. If boards were the answer to our economic ills, then I am sure Canada would today be well on the road to prosperity. We have many now and we are getting more week by week. Let us remember that the setting up of an agency, by whatever name it might be called or for whatever purposes may be defined, is not just the answer to our problems. We have learned through the eloquent words of the minister this afternoon, the purposes and objectives of this Atlantic development board. We all agree that the words he has spoken are well chosen, because they are true. But they will only be effective if they can be put into action. I am fearful of the multiplicity of boards as we try to deal with the problem of planning that our country needs in a way that will benefit the country according to its basic objectives and traditions.

We have heard described already this afternoon the work and function of the board known as APEC, the Atlantic provinces economic council. It has done good work. I am personally familiar with a number of people on the board and realize that they have covered a great deal of ground in surveying the needs of the Atlantic provinces. We have also discussed, and are still in the process of discussing, the national economic development board. We also have the national productivity council. One wonders just how effective are the operations of these different agencies as they relate to the results that are wanted without a serious overlapping and multiplicity of function and even of purpose.

I think this is one of the things about which we must be very careful, and I trust that the government has taken this question into careful consideration. I say this because what is expected at this time—I am sure that every person who lives in the Atlantic area will be thinking thus when he hears the announcement of this new board—is action, effective action that will lift the Atlantic area out of

what has been termed a depressed area into what can be one of the strongest emerging areas in the country. As I have come to know the maritimes, I have come to almost abhor the word "welfare" as it has been applied, because the truth is—and I think all Canadians, if they were intimately familiar with this part of our country, would understand this—that the Atlantic provinces are potentially the richest and most prosperous in the whole of Canada. They are not entitled to and should not be given such descriptive terms such as "depressed".

If one looks, not at the problems of the Atlantic area but at its resources, he realizes they are truly amazing. Prince Edward Island is one of the richest farm areas in Canada. Nova Scotia has tremendous reserves of coal. It has excellent possibilities as far as communications and shipping are concerned. Certainly it has a tremendous fishing industry. New Brunswick is not only the centre of a new base metals mining industry, it is also a major source of lumber in the east. In addition, together with Nova Scotia, it is a site of some of our leading universities, an asset without price in an age when we should be moving forward into the greatest era of development and progress that the history of Canada has ever known. Newfoundland and Labrador have immense undeveloped sources of hydroelectric power. There are also vast lumber and mining potentials. This is all without mentioning the possibilities of developing this entire area for tourism, which is one of the great and for the most part undeveloped assets of this beautiful part of Canada.

The minister this afternoon went over a number of the things which he envisages the Atlantic development board as being concerned with. He mentioned the Chignecto canal, the Prince Edward Island causeway, the manganese deposits, the marble and base metals, in addition to existing resources such as coal. He mentioned the hydro potential on the upper Saint John river. Although he did not refer to it, I am sure he was thinking also of the Fundy hydro development potential. He spoke of a needed power grid. All this concerns only a portion of the rich resources of this part of the country. It is these things which, we have been told, will be the subject of the board's attention. Looking at what has been happening in the maritimes I sometimes smile at the jibing which takes place back and forth between the two larger parties in this house. I do not know whether this is a game of chess or a football game; maybe it is the Grey cup in the fog. But I do know that which has been done either by a former Liberal government or by past Conservative