

The Address—Mr. McMillan

state of New York by the Niagara river in its entire length. The Welland ship canal, which was built to overcome the rapids and the falls at Niagara, traverses both these counties. The canal connects lake Erie and lake Ontario, and its course runs parallel to the Niagara river at distances of from seven to twelve miles from that river. It can truly be said that in Niagara falls we have one of the natural wonders of the world, and in the Welland ship canal we have one of the man-made wonders of the world.

My home is at Thorold in the northern end of the county. It was here that the Welland ship canal was officially opened in August, 1931, by the late Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin, then prime minister of Great Britain. At that time the late Hon. Dr. Manion was minister of railways and canals. In Thorold we say that the steamships climb the mountain, because the height of the whole Niagara escarpment is ascended in a distance of less than one mile.

In the early days industry settled along the canal in order to make use of the water for power purposes and for shipping facilities. Today the water power has been largely replaced by hydroelectric power, but many of the industries have remained and expanded. The Welland ship canal passes through the city of Welland, the county seat, and also the town of Port Colborne, which is situated on the lake Erie entrance to the canal. The county of Welland has two fast-growing cities in the cities of Niagara Falls and Welland. We also have near cities in Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Stamford and Thorold, and our rural areas are densely populated. Without a doubt we have one of the largest ridings by way of population in the Dominion of Canada. There are about 120,000 people in the county, with an electorate of about 70,000.

The earliest settlers consisted mainly of United Empire Loyalists who crossed the Niagara river from 1790 onward to carve out homes in the wilderness. Before them and later, many came from the British isles. Since world war I we have had a great influx of fine people from central and southern Europe. More recently many of our good neighbours from our sister province of Quebec have entered our county. Living as we do in close proximity to the great American cities of Niagara Falls and Buffalo, our people have daily contact with our friends in that country and thereby contribute to a greater mutual understanding between our peoples.

Our agriculture is varied between general farming, fruit farming, market gardening and grape growing. The Fonthill, Fenwick and

Stamford areas are very productive and have several nurseries, fruit farms and vineyards.

In Welland county we have one of the most intensely industrialized areas in the Dominion of Canada. Today a \$160 million hydroelectric development is getting under way at Niagara falls to add another 500,000 horsepower to the already large production of hydroelectric power in that area. Our county can boast of several steel, pulp and paper, abrasive, chemical and flour milling plants. It has several wineries, a nickel refinery, cement works, aircraft factory, a fertilizer and explosives plant, a plant for the manufacture of farm machinery, as well as a large number of smaller plants. All these industries make Welland an area vital to the welfare of all the people of Canada, both in time of peace and in time of war. In passing, I might mention that the people of the county of Welland subscribed slightly over \$159 million in the various war loans.

Finally, our county is a mecca for tourists. Not only is it a gateway into Canada for our cousins from the United States, but the Ontario government maintains the beautiful Niagara parks, which consist of thirty-five miles of magnificent parklands bordering the Niagara river and include many well known and famous gardens, unusual floral displays, ancient fortifications, old battlefields and historic sites of interest and significance to the people of North America. More than one hon. member has admitted to me that he visited Niagara falls on the occasion of the celebration of his leaving the state of bachelorhood.

In the first half of this century, prior to the time of the late Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Welland was represented by distinguished men in this house. These were the late William Manley German, the late A. B. Damude, the late Evan Fraser, and Mr. George Pettit, K.C., a well-known solicitor and distinguished citizen of the city of Welland.

Since the last meeting of parliament the arbitrator in the railway strike has made his report. The outcome was favourable to labour in that labour obtained most of its demands. This should dispel any idea that there was any unnecessary attempt on the part of the government to interfere with free collective bargaining. The conference between the premiers of our provinces and the federal government was marked in its evidence of good will and cordial relations, which we hope will continue to promote a united Canada. Certain constitutional amendments and tax agreements were submitted to the provinces and, of course, have to be considered by the various provincial governments. If the provinces accept the federal old age