

*The Address—Mr. Higgins*

I should also like to draw to your attention the great possibilities of our territory of Labrador. We have down there iron ore, forests and one of the greatest waterfalls in the world. No accurate estimate of the timber resources of Labrador has been prepared as yet to my knowledge, but from what knowledge I have been able to gather it would appear that there is a considerable quantity of first-class standing timber in Labrador at the present time, and quite ample in amount to operate another pulp and paper mill. Labrador is also the location of Grand falls, which has been estimated to make possible a hydroelectric development of better than a million horsepower. Our iron ore in Labrador is of extremely high quality, and all reports to date indicate a very large body. As hon. members know, plans are being made now to put a railway in from the Quebec side to connect with the Quebec body of ore and to operate that body and the body in Labrador at the same time, I believe.

The issue of the *Financial Post* of September 17 makes reference to Labrador iron, and the paper states that Republic Steel, Armco, Inland and Wheeling Steel, U.S. Steel and Bethlehem Steel are classed as being interested. The paper states also that production is thought to be five years away, but it is said to be no longer a guess that United States steel companies will be taking a share of it. Those of you who follow iron ore must know that the Mesabi range is very closely approaching the exhaustion point, so you can see the value of these deposits of iron ore in northern Quebec and Labrador and the great value it should be to all of the dominion in the years to come. I shall make a further reference to a particular aspect of Labrador in connection with the supreme court bill which is to come up again shortly.

Apart from the Labrador possibilities we have three other mines in operation. We have an iron mine situated at Bell Island in my own constituency, which has been in operation since I believe the beginning of the century. It is owned by Dosco, and the great bulk of the iron ore is now being used at Sydney. Prior to the war a great deal of it used to be shipped to Germany. In fact, before both world wars Germany received a considerable quantity of that ore. There is also our very valuable lead, zinc, copper mine situated at Buchans. This mine is being operated by a subsidiary of American Smelters and possesses a very high grade ore. The only other mine in active operation at the present time is a fluorspar mine at St. Lawrence, which is also being operated by another United States company. We have also other great possibilities for various industries in the future because, Mr. Speaker,

we have a country that is as yet unspoiled, a country that we say will be a mecca for tourists. All that we need is proper tourist facilities and of course adequate means by which tourists may get into the country in the cheapest possible manner and with the least inconvenience to themselves, and that of course is by road. But we have to cross that little narrow neck from Sydney to Port aux Basques. We hope and trust that as soon as a trans-insular road is completed a proper ship will be put on the gulf so that a tourist can drive in with his car in comfort and drive out in equal comfort when he gets to our little island. The provision of a suitable ship is part of the terms of confederation. I am merely reminding hon. members and the government so that they will not forget.

These are some of the assets that we bring to you. These are the visible assets. The asset of which we are most proud, the asset of which I am sure all Newfoundland members in this house are most proud, is that we bring to you provinces and to you representatives of the provinces of this great dominion 328,000 people who are the salt of the earth, people who are independent, people who are going to make first-class Canadians.

I went into this matter somewhat in detail to show you that we did not come to you with empty hands. We are still a poor country, and poorer in the thing known as money—but in everything else we are wealthy. In money we are poor, and we are not able to enjoy the standards of living which you in the rest of Canada can enjoy at the present time. I would therefore ask all hon. members from all parts of the house when the time arrives, as it must, when a request is made that the financial terms of confederation with Newfoundland be revised upward, that you will all give it your favourable consideration.

I should like to refer to the terms of union which deal with this subject. Section 29 states that:

In view of the difficulty of predicting with sufficient accuracy the financial consequences to Newfoundland of becoming a province of Canada, the government of Canada will appoint a royal commission within eight years from the date of union to review the financial position of the province of Newfoundland and to recommend the form and scale of additional financial assistance, if any, that may be required by the government of the province of Newfoundland to enable it to continue public services at the levels and standards reached subsequent to the date of union, without resorting to taxation more burdensome, having regard to capacity to pay, than that obtaining generally in the region comprising the maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

All I can say is that if we in Newfoundland have to wait for eight years before the terms of this agreement are going to be considered,