

*The Address—Mr. Knight*

that on that date I was convinced something was going to be done soon, because on that occasion I said:

Irrespective of what party is in power—

That is after the 1949 election.

—I think something will be done. If the project is sound from an engineering point of view, this government is to be censured for not carrying out its promises.

That was three long years ago. After the 1949 election we again had high hopes, but the minister hedged a bit. He said the province of Saskatchewan would have to put up its share of the money. The province gave its assurance as to that, and we were then told that nothing could be done without agreement between the three provinces concerned as to the water distribution. Then there was to be a delay for the final inspection by a prominent engineer. Although the minister was questioned at that time as to the name of the prominent engineer, we were never able to find out. The matter was then handed over to a commission of three experts who are now studying it, and we believe their decision will be favourable. I do not believe it could be anything but favourable. If that is so, then I urge the government to proceed forthwith, even before the next election. I am concerned with the benefit this project will bring to the country more than I am concerned with who gets credit for bringing it about. The completion of this scheme would benefit not only our province; it would bring work to a great many people. It would increase the population of Saskatchewan; it would put a greater number of people on smaller farms, and it would mean a new type of farmer. It would encourage diversification in farming and the breeding of livestock, and would conceivably promote other industries such as the finishing of beef cattle and the production of beet sugar. It would mean more business for the towns, and would stabilize the farm economy of the province. It would affect the nation as a whole. Let us proceed with it.

Much has been said at this session of the current difficulties of the prairie wheat farmers. We hope something will be done to help them in their temporary trouble due to the lack of storage space and the lack of transportation. We hope they will be assisted financially until their crops can be delivered in the ordinary way. The demands for better transportation have perhaps embarrassed the government and the railways. It occurs to me that embarrassment might have been very much greater if the crop had been taken off, as it usually is, in two or three weeks of fine sunny weather. In view of the apparent lack

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of preparation for the movement of this year's crop, the fact that most of it was not ready as quickly as usual has been something of a face saver, in my opinion, for this government and for the transportation companies. The storage of grain, of course, is one of the difficulties this year, and I am going to suggest to the government that the storage space at the port of Churchill might well be enlarged. The present capacity of the elevator up there is 2,500,000 bushels. If there were greater storage facilities, greater use of the Hudson bay route would be encouraged. That in turn would be an advantage to the growers in that shipping area; it would also be an advantage to my own city and to other northern towns.

There is another consideration. I was reading tonight in my home paper that the grain people are estimating that in the northern part of Saskatchewan only about 20 per cent of the wheat that is being shipped is classified as dry; it is damp or tough. The Churchill elevator is equipped with splendid drying facilities which in any wet harvest year, such as this one, could be used to tremendous advantage. If more storage space were available, more wheat could be prepared there for export through the use of even the present drying facilities which throughout the years have been comparatively idle. I think last year was the first in which any substantial use was made of those facilities. It was amazing to me to learn the amount of grain that could be dried there in twenty-four hours' time. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) has received in this regard at least one representation that I know about. That was from the council of farm unions of the prairie provinces. I have twice questioned him about it, and in spite of his rather discouraging reply today we hope that the government will give it earnest consideration.

I have one more subject to bring before this house at this time. For some time we who live in Saskatchewan have felt that a production unit of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation should be established in that province. There are three provinces in Canada where the C.B.C. has not set up such a unit. Before deciding to bring this matter before the house I canvassed the opinions of the premier of Saskatchewan, the president of the farmers' union in Saskatchewan and the president of the Saskatoon federated co-operative, and I have received unanimous endorsement of the idea. I have in my hand letters from those gentlemen in regard to the matter.

As things are now it is difficult to arrange to have people from our province take part in such programs as "Citizens' Forum",