

The Address—Mr. D. F. Brown

It is interesting to note that his chief opponent, who was a man of great influence and, I think, probably of great wealth, has now sought refuge in the old country following the example of one of his predecessors. I think it is only fitting that I recommend to the mother country that suitable rewards should be given to him for the service which he has accomplished in Canada in acquiring a great chain of newspapers and in serving the people of our country.

The people whom I represent in the constituency of Essex West are, for the most part, engaged in the automobile industry. We have, of course, the largest concentration of the pharmaceutical industry in the British Empire; but in addition to that we are known as the centre of the automobile industry in the British Empire. We have a large plant of the General Motors Corporation which manufactures the motors used in trucks and motor cars. Then too we have a large plant of the Ford Motor Company which recently has expended about \$7 million or \$8 million on the expansion of a power plant and which now has embarked on a program of expansion of their plant there to the extent of some several millions of dollars. I am not certain as to the amount but I think it is in the neighbourhood of about \$20 million. The third large corporation which we have is the Chrysler Corporation of Canada. They have never been known as any particular supporters of mine, I might tell you; but they have shown their faith in this country of ours and their hopes for the future by embarking on a program under which they will, in the next eighteen months or so, expend approximately \$41 million in enlarging considerably the plants they now have.

On looking back over the years, Mr. Speaker—if I may be facetious for a moment—we recall that the automobile industry started here in Canada about 50 years ago. They are making quite a few sales. There are quite a few automobiles in the hands of our people—whether that is good or bad—and we are all endeavouring to get possession of one if we do not already have one. As I say, if I may be facetious, I have been coming to the conclusion that the automobile is really here to stay.

In its plant the Chrysler corporation employs, as of the present time, some 6,463 persons. They have an annual payroll of \$23,857,000. Through this operation they produce on the average about 58,000 passenger cars and 13,000 trucks which is a total of about 71,000 motor vehicles altogether per annum. If you figure this out I think you will come to the conclusion that there are

nearly 300 motor vehicles produced every working day of the year by that plant alone.

This is not just for the benefit of one locality or one corporation, for the expenditure which is made by that corporation is spread over the whole of Canada from British Columbia to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. All of us benefit by the materials which are purchased and the sales which are made to the various dealers.

These companies sell through dealers and these dealers give a warranty backed up by the company. That warranty is for the good workmanship of the car and is for the period of the first 90 days or the first 4,000 miles driven by the purchaser or whichever occurs first. That, Mr. Speaker, is the practice not of one company only; it is the practice of all the companies.

I am sorry that the hon. member for Hastings-Frontenac (Mr. White) is not present in his seat, although I have notified his office that I was going to bring this matter up tonight.* However, I may say that he and I are the very best of friends, and as a member of the opposition he is, I can safely say, probably one of my closest friends and severest critics. But Mr. Speaker, I abhor the practice of using this forum of the House of Commons for the purpose of airing personal grievances, and I do so for these reasons. First, that it is an abuse of our regularly constituted courts in this country which are set up for the purpose of providing redress for any wrong that may be suffered.

Second, it is a wanton waste of taxpayers' money to air these grievances here at such expense to the people of Canada on what is a purely personal matter.

Third, it precludes the person charged from defending himself in a fair and honest manner. He is not permitted to come to this house for the purpose of giving his evidence, defending himself and taking his own chances.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is my opinion that such practice, if adhered to, will result in a form of legal blackmail.

As I said before, I would like to refer to the remarks made by the hon. member for Hastings-Frontenac during the course of this debate which may be found on page 86 of *Hansard* dated November 17, 1953, and on page 87, where you will find he says:

In a recent matter that came through my law office I was amazed to find that the great Chrysler Corporation of Canada, which manufactures Chrysler, De Soto, Dodge and Plymouth cars, makes no warranty in the sale of their cars.

As I have said, I have no brief for any corporation, but I do hold a brief for the people of my constituency, and for the workers in the factories, for in addition to

* (See page 195.)