

the government will continue to play a major role in the implementation of the plan. In the meantime, we continue to rely on social security measures.

For the time being, we are confident that the government will continue to give more and more attention to our water and air transport problems, to railroad operation, to maintenance and improvement of our wharves and harbour facilities as well as of our airports.

By bringing our economy up to par, we wish to do our duty as Canadians.

Of course, we do want to keep and develop our identity; but we wish to live in harmony with the other groups of Canada, of our Canada that we wish happy, prosperous and at peace.

That is how we plan to live in Canada, after hearing the Speech from the Throne.

[English]

**Mr. F. J. W. Fane (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, may I first offer you my felicitations upon your election as presiding officer of the House of Commons. I know that your training under the distinguished Mr. Speaker Macnaughton was very thorough and very good. We know that you will continue his work and will keep control of the house at all times. To your assistant, the Deputy Speaker, and to the Deputy Chairman of Committees I also offer my felicitations. They too, I know, will preside properly and wisely over the deliberations of this house. Since it is customary, I would like to offer my congratulations to the two new members who were chosen to move and to second the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

● (4:10 p.m.)

I should like to suggest to the young member for York-Scarborough (Mr. Stanbury), who said that he represented the most populous constituency in Canada, that though he may represent more people than some of us I am quite sure that he does not have more work to do or more interest in the people he represents than those of us who represent constituencies of some 50,000 people. I am quite sure that his workload, even with his 250,000 constituents, is no greater than mine with slightly less than 50,000 because my people are farmers. They are people who, when a Liberal government is in office, are the forgotten people of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

*The Address—Mr. Fane*

**Mr. Fane:** That is something that has always been evident and a fact. The last three years have done nothing whatever to change this situation. I know that the Liberal candidate in my constituency was forever telling meetings we both attended that Liberal times are good times. He was just laughed out of the meetings. He told us how much better off the farmers were now than they were three years ago.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Fane:** You may very well applaud, Mr. Minister, but let me say that the people certainly gave him the raspberry for that too.

As we are debating the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne I had better mention the Speech from the Throne, although from my point of view there is little enough for the farmers in it. I think agriculture is mentioned three times and nothing very definite is said. There is to be an extension or a continuation of ARDA, a feed grain policy for eastern Canada and British Columbia, and the establishment of a dairy commission. These measures are very necessary. The first mention of agriculture has to do with the elimination of pockets of poverty within the economy and the establishment of rural development programs, which are necessary to agricultural progress and a better rural life. That is what is said about agriculture so far as I can see.

There does not seem to be any promise of relief for the farmers of western Canada or for the farmers of eastern Canada. Farmers wherever they are are all in the same boat. The people of Canada know that the farming industry is the backbone of this country. Without our farmers, and in times when the farmers are not prosperous, nothing is prosperous. In Alberta we have some oil and other industries but we cannot live on those industries alone.

I also notice in the throne speech that there does not seem to be any mention of Indian affairs except that the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources is now to be a department dealing with Indian affairs and northern affairs. This may be a good thing because I have never believed that Indian affairs were in the proper place when they were under the jurisdiction of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. The Indians are our first citizens and actually should have a department and a minister all to themselves. I am also glad to note that the Canadian Citizenship Act is to be amended; it should have been amended long ago.