

*The Address—Mr. Bruneau*

Montreal. It covers a strip of land equidistant between our two main waterways, the St. Lawrence river and the Ottawa river. Geographically speaking, I am sure it compares most favourably with any other constituency in our vast dominion.

Situated in what we call the golden triangle of the eastern tip of Ontario, in the midst of the Ottawa valley, the farming class which I represent in this house cultivate the richest soil on the North American continent. The largest centre in my riding, Hawkesbury, is an industrial city which has a population of approximately 7,500 people. Three highways pass through it. I hope that the Minister of Resources and Development will permit highway 17, which will form part of the trans-Canada route, to pass through this municipality. Highway 34 leads from Cornwall and the state of New York, and there is the interprovincial bridge which connects with the Quebec north shore highway.

My people can claim also the possession of the wickedest river in Canada, the Nation river. Unfortunately, every spring it floods the northwestern tip of Prescott. I would therefore ask the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier) to embark upon a construction program to check this overflow of water. If that is not possible, I would ask the Minister of Resources and Development to implement a program of reforestation which could remedy the situation. I am informed that there are approximately 3,000 acres of waste land in the region which could be used for that purpose.

Furthermore, in the county of Prescott there are three airports; one in Pendleton, another in St. Eugene, and the third in Hawkesbury. The first two mentioned airports thrived during the war, and I am sure we could persuade the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) to find a way of putting those three airfields to good use. Considering all those assets, and the ideal geographical factors concerning my constituency, it will be seen it has undreamed of possibilities. I am sure therefore that the cabinet ministers will lend a sympathetic ear to any project I have the opportunity of presenting during this twenty-first parliament.

I was glad to hear in the speech from the throne, that the federal-provincial conference "marked a promising beginning in working out a satisfactory procedure for making within Canada whatever amendments to the constitution may from time to time be required." Let me say at once, sir, that since we have now done away with appeals to the privy council and have chosen to rely

upon our own supreme court, Canada is now a truly sovereign country. I believe it would not be expecting too much to have, in the very near future, a national flag acceptable to all, towards which we could proudly lift our heads, and which would be a living symbol of the true sovereignty of our great Canada.

One was also pleased to hear in the speech from the throne that negotiations are well under way for the implementation of programs adopted during the last session respecting housing, the transcontinental highway and forest conservation. All these are great problems of urgent necessity. With regard to health facilities and services, which will be under consideration during this second session, I hope consideration will be given to passing a bill for the assistance of invalids.

In the international sphere, it is comforting to know that our country is giving "full support to the charter of the United Nations". We all hope that the Canadian delegation now attending the session of the economic and social council, to which Canada was elected at the last session of the general assembly, will do its utmost in co-operation with the other peace-loving countries represented at the world government to achieve a true and lasting peace and, if necessary, keep communistic Russia at bay. The seventh paragraph of the speech from the throne is a true indication of the will of our government to strive towards the achievement of peace. It reads as follows:

The measures for the preservation of peace and the restoration and maintenance of prosperity contemplated by the North Atlantic treaty are being devised and applied as expeditiously as circumstances permit.

With that in view we are giving constant attention to the best use of our resources and the development of Canada's defence forces.

As regards employment, I believe that the security provisions established under unemployment insurance legislation are the best means to counteract the ill effects brought about by seasonal factors.

In the sphere of markets for our farm products, which have suffered from readjustments in the sterling area, we are securing other markets throughout the world; and I will say here, Mr. Speaker, that at a meeting with farmers of my constituency in Plantagenet on January 16 last, when I informed my people that we were trying to secure markets for our basic products on a cash and carry basis, I had occasion to find out that they were more at ease. I even went so far as to tell them that we should not meet with any difficulty in selling those goods abroad because they could compete with the exports of any other country in the world.