

are under way with a view to abolishing tolls on Victoria and Jacques Cartier bridges. This means that the neighbouring municipalities, once the tolls are abolished, will be free from what they call the obstacle to their economic and industrial development.

Transport facilities were required in another section of our country where the development of our natural resources is expanding from day to day, thanks to one of our main industries, and which represents a source of supplies for business enterprises on the north shore of the St. Lawrence. So, our Government, which has already set up better sea transport facilities has now decided to provide this area with a railway line, which will have its importance. The Government deserves congratulations for taking an interest in the construction of a railway in the Gaspé peninsula, from Matane to Ste. Anne des Monts, a part of Canada where, as elsewhere, progress is on the march.

Another piece of legislation announced in the Speech from the Throne, and whose importance must not be overlooked, is the one which is designed to increase the total volume of export financing. As will be recalled, the Export Credit Insurance Corporation, in exchange for the payment of a proper premium, insures Canadian exporters' property and services, to protect them against defaulting foreign purchasers.

This corporation greatly helps our industries to create new jobs and to increase their production.

The number of insurance policies increases each year. Those policies cover a great variety of exports to approximately a hundred countries. At present, the corporation guarantees over one billion dollars and our government intends to grant additional funds to this body in order to further boost our economy.

I would be remiss if, before concluding, I did not mention the importance of the social security measure referred to in the Speech from the Throne, that is the increase of the universal old age pension payable under the Old Age Security Act and the Old Age Assistance Act. Those measures are further evidence that the Government has always been concerned with the welfare of our old people. Once again, the Government is carrying out the promises made by the Conservative party to the Canadian people at the time of the 1957 election. When the Government raised old age pensions in October 1957, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the Honourable Mr. Monteith, introduced that legislation by saying that he was

not suggesting that the increase granted provided a final or perfect solution, and he gave to understand that there would be another readjustment in the future. The Government is to be commended for its just and fair treatment of our senior citizens.

The Speech from the Throne further informs us that a new contributory old age pension plan will complement the existing legislation. This new plan is no doubt the result of the investigation carried out by the Government on the system in force in the United States, to set up in Canada, in addition to our present pension plan, a general and efficient contributory program of social security which would supplement existing services. All of us are anxious to know the contents of that bill which will give our people a greater degree of security.

Honourable senators, I have touched upon all the points I wanted to raise in moving the adoption of the address. A moment ago, I stated that a climate of confidence prevails in Canada at present, that even in the United States, our country is considered as the land of the future, that foreign investments in Canada are such that some of our fellow-citizens find them too heavy. However, if we wish to succeed we must remain united; guided by the loftiest ideals, we must work together; we must strive to promote national rather than private interests. I said that it is only by remaining true to our ideal, by having faith in the future and by trying to serve Canada well that each of us will be able to fulfil his own ambitions.

I do not know to what I owe the honour of being asked by the Leader of the Government in this house to move the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, but I wish to thank him most sincerely and I am very grateful to the honourable senators for their kind attention.

(Text):

Honourable senators, last night I had the pleasure of being introduced to the newly-appointed senator from St. John's, Newfoundland, the Honourable Senator Malcolm Hollett. I wish to congratulate him upon his appointment and to assure him he is warmly welcome to our ranks. Honourable Mr. Hollett served in the provincial Legislature of Newfoundland from 1952 to 1959, and for the greater part of that period was Leader of the Opposition. In view of his vast experience, there is no doubt that his contributions to the deliberations of this house will be most valuable.

He has been a magistrate for over 25 years and, speaking personally as a lawyer,