

by those who have already spoken, more particularly by hon. members on this side of the house. I am prompted, sir, to make these remarks because of the fact that so many constituencies have been heard from through their representatives, and I felt that the county of Welland, which I have the honour to represent, should not remain silent.

For your information, sir, I should like to tell you some things about the splendid and important county of Welland which you may not already know. It is a border county in the Niagara district; within its confines are two cities, Niagara Falls and Welland. There are also four towns, two villages, two very splendid fruit farming districts, namely, the townships of Pelham and Stamford, and six general agricultural townships. It is the cradle of hydro-electric power and a great industrial centre. For the information of the government I may say that in those two fruit farming townships those who engage in the growing of early fruits and vegetables are one in the desire for a duty—and a good high duty—on early fruits and vegetables imported from the United States. There are a number of producers of these things in these townships and the industry is developing.

There are quite a number of nurseries in Pelham township well and widely known—foremost among them the Fonthill Nurseries, Ltd., and Brown Bros. Co., Nurserymen, Ltd. The horticulturists of Canada are entitled to and should be given proper protection against foreign importations of nursery stock, shrubs, bulbs, etc. I respectfully but strongly urge this protection.

I may also say for the information of the house and the public at large—and I think hon. members of the house will be delighted to hear this—that the large foreign population in the county of Welland, those naturalized and those not, are loyal citizens, loyal to our institutions and British connections, and law abiding citizens generally, with the exception perhaps of a small class of Russians. There are, of course, a few bad people among them, but we have bad people in our own race. It would do your hearts good, gentlemen, to see at the different gatherings of these people how the little boys and girls sing the national anthem, and the Maple Leaf Forever, and O Canada, with all the vim and vigor they possess. The older people also take part to the extent of their ability to do so. The British flag graces their halls; they take part in all the public processions with the British flag at their head, and they also join in celebrating anniversary of the armistice. So I am glad and proud to be able to tell this

[Mr. Pettit.]

house that the foreign population in my district are loyal to our British institutions and laws generally and good citizens.

Now, sir, I wish to refer hurriedly and in a general way to a few of the matters which have been already touched upon, and the first of these is the sales tax. We appreciate the action which the government took last session when this sales tax was reduced somewhat, even though the reduction was small, and the same holds good this year. I do feel, however, as other members on this side of the house feel, and I believe in this I voice the sentiments of the people of my constituency, that the sales tax should have been taken off entirely. Let me also say that I view with a great deal of satisfaction the appointment of a committee of this house, which committee is now sitting, to look into the problems of the returned soldiers with the view of bringing in legislation for their benefit. I sincerely trust that this legislation will be as broad and as favourable as possible in order that these returned men may always receive the benefit of any doubt which may exist in particular cases.

I also wish to espouse the cause of the rural mail carriers of the country at large. I do not think there is a more faithful or a harder working class of government employees than the rural and urban mail carriers. Practically all of them are married men with families and I appeal to the government to put them, the rural mail carriers on a proper basis. The work should not be let under tender. The remuneration should be at least \$1,400 a year where the mileage warrants it, and even that is little enough. The remuneration ought to be on the basis of \$70 per mile.

I wish to take this opportunity of stating that my constituents and myself favour the Canadian National Railways as now organized and brought into being by the Conservative party. I am glad to pay tribute to the management in bringing order out of chaos, and placing the system in the splendid position it now occupies. I have every confidence that within a very few years the system will be established on a paying basis.

I was delighted to hear the other day in the house the statement from a member of the government that a large appropriation was being granted in aid of research work. I have been very much interested in that work for a great many years. I do not claim by any means to be an authority on the subject, but I have always felt that research work should be undertaken in this country to a greater extent than has been the case in the past. I look forward to the achievement of