

The Address—Mr. McQuaid

population of the area. Unfortunately, our most important export is brains. Why do these brains leave? They leave in search of work for higher pay. The main factor which contributes to this out-migration is the small employment base. No one is going to stay if there are not sufficient jobs to enable them to maintain a decent standard of living. If this out-migration of the population continues at the very high level of the past few years, we may very well ask ourselves whether the region will be left with a sufficient labour force to produce the goods and services required to prevent the gap from becoming even wider.

It is impossible to reduce out-migration by force. Nor is it reasonable to expect that people will remain in the region because of a hope that the per capita income will increase. There must be a generation of employment within the region. This must be at a sufficiently high level so that rates of pay are commensurate with those received in other parts of Canada. Only in this way will we be able to make remaining in this region an attractive proposition. This calls for a programmed approach by the federal government in the development of job opportunities in the area. That is what we require, job opportunities.

There must be a narrowing of the gap in personal income as between this region and Canada as a whole. This should be accomplished through generation of income in the region and not by a transfer of income to the region. Pouring subsidies into the Atlantic provinces will not solve our problems satisfactorily. Patronage will never produce prosperity. Those are not my words, but it is a very correct quotation. We in our province unfortunately entered Confederation on a patronage basis. What is more unfortunate is that we have existed on this patronage ever since. Pouring subsidies into the area has not worked, except that it has enabled our people to subsist in the land they love but in a land which, unfortunately, is incapable of supporting them.

New assistance to this area of Canada must not bear the tag of charity; it must help us to be productive. There must be policies aimed at substantially increasing productivity, thereby leading to maximum efficiency and the utilization of our natural resources, while processing these resources to the fullest possible extent within the region. We are somewhat encouraged by the Speech from the Throne which says:

It remains the goal of the government to be concerned with the production of wealth. It also remains the goal of the government that Canadians be given the opportunity to enjoy that wealth.

If these are more than empty words, and let us hope they are, the government must get going right away in order to help this area. There are many ways in which help could be extended. We have natural resources in the area. In my own province, for example, we have a rapidly expanding Irish moss business. Irish moss, for the information of hon. members who may not be acquainted with it, is a small marine plant which is attached to rocks very close to low-water. The most important and valuable extract from Irish moss is a product called carrageen. It is worth from \$1.50 to \$2 per pound. It is

used as a stabilizing base in very many products. It is used, for example, in ice cream, chocolate milk, pie fillings, beer and icings. It is also used in insecticide sprays, water-base paints, inks, shampoos, ointments, tablets and cosmetics. There are hundreds of uses for this product.

Last year in the province of Prince Edward Island we produced 54 million pounds of Irish moss. This represents 37 per cent of the world supply. Think of it—37 per cent of the world supply of Irish moss was produced in the small province of Prince Edward Island. About 85 million pounds of Irish moss was harvested in the Maritimes last year. That represents about 84 per cent of the world production. This is a very promising industry, but the unfortunate part is that all this moss is exported, either to Denmark or to the state of Maine, in order to extract the carrageen, which is the important part. I suggest there is no reason at all why extraction plants could not be established in the Atlantic area. This would provide employment for a great many of our people and would enable this important extract to be taken out right at home. The product would not have to be exported to foreign countries. This is an industry which I suggest could very well be helped and supported by the federal government in order to provide more employment for our people.

Fishing is another important industry in the Atlantic provinces. In 1969 the fishing industry accounted for an income in excess of \$9 million. I suggest that more work will have to be done to make fish attractive and easy to prepare, and also to encourage its greater consumption. The latest figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics indicate that Canadians eat 13 pounds of meat and poultry for every pound of fish. A great deal of blame for this can be laid directly at the feet of the Department of Fisheries. There has, unfortunately been very little effort on the part of the department to find out just what the consumer wants in the line of fish, and very little effort has been made to encourage our producers to make fish more attractive and of improved quality. Quality control must be tightened, because the entire industry suffers when sloppy inspection practices permit inferior quality fish to reach the consumer's table. Again, more encouragement must be given to our people to eat fish.

In many cases, fish recipes which are published for consumers—some by the Department of Fisheries itself—are so complicated, contain so many uncommon ingredients and take so long to prepare that the average housewife, in despair, reaches into the fridge and brings out a sausage dinner. Housewives cannot be expected to find out from processing companies what to do with fish when they buy it, and if they wait to find out from the government I am afraid the fish will be spoiled. Fish cookbooks prepared by the government—there are some good ones—should not be kept here in Ottawa waiting for the consumer to write for them. The consumer just will not write. I suggest these cookbooks should be sent out. Unless the federal government takes steps along these lines to increase Canadian per capita consumption of fish, the industry is bound to suffer. More work will

[Mr. McQuaid.]