

The Address—Mr. Fulton

trated in the hands of the federal government. The federal government refuses to implement its social security promises. The province of British Columbia is driven to imposing the sales tax to carry out what it regards as a basic level of social security for the people of that province. The municipal governments are unable to finance their proper responsibilities and the provinces are unable to help them further. To give you an example, I might cite what happened in my own district this past year. Nothing is more necessary for the people of Kamloops than adequate school facilities, yet nothing is in shorter supply. Last fall a bylaw was presented which called for the expenditure of about a million and a half dollars to provide needed school accommodation for that district. Approximately half of that amount would be contributed by the provincial government. The only way in which the municipality could raise the balance was by means of a further tax on property. I did not hear a single person deny that the increased school accommodation was necessary. Both the city and the rural areas turned down the bylaw. It was turned down, Mr. Speaker, for one reason and one reason only, and that is the crushing burden of taxation already imposed by the dominion government. The people said, "We cannot stand any more taxes".

Unfortunately, the people do not often have an opportunity of voting directly against federal tax laws. Such an opportunity will be afforded them at the next election and then my friends who impose these taxes will find out how the people feel about them. The people do have the opportunity of voting against municipal tax laws. It is the only chance they have of showing they cannot stand any more taxes even though it be for urgently needed school accommodation.

I suggest that this question of dominion-provincial relations is not of merely academic or political interest. It is of vital, everyday interest to the people in the various parts of the country from which we come. This gathering into federal government hands of all taxing powers for some theory of budgeting which has been referred to—and correctly—as more like a political theory of budgeting than a cyclical theory, and the imposition of heavy taxes to be used for a variety of non-essential purposes, some of them constitutional and some unconstitutional, yet refusing to fulfil the undertakings given to the provinces or to call a conference to sort out these matters, is resulting in our provincial governments and our municipalities being unable to provide the services which should be provided for their people.

I had intended, Mr. Speaker, to discuss the somewhat related subject of the development of our natural resources, but I see that I am within a minute or two of the expiry of my time and therefore I will not go into detail on that subject. As I indicated earlier, I had intended to refer to the necessity of a flood control, power and irrigation project in British Columbia, especially with reference to the Fraser river system. Here is another sphere where the expenditure of provincial funds is called for. A large expenditure is called for, and the province will be hamstrung and handicapped because it has not the tax resources with which to carry out the project. I hope however that another opportunity will be afforded to deal with that matter more completely, so I will only say this in conclusion: I urge on the federal government and on the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier)—who incidentally has not yet tabled the copy of the report of the Fraser river board, for which I asked—to get his engineers busy and to get construction started now. All our lakes and rivers were full last fall. We had a wet fall. We have had a heavy snowfall this winter. If we should have a hot or a sudden spring, we shall have floods out there worse than those we had last year. I urge that the government proceed immediately with the construction of this project under the three heads of flood control, power for irrigation, and power for developing the resources of the province.

Mr. G. H. Castleden (Yorkton): I trust that you will pardon me, Mr. Speaker, if I talk this evening about the next generation rather than the next general election. It may be somewhat of a change for a house which is probably in its last session.

Today Canada is faced with many problems, and I shall deal first with what in our opinion is the most important one facing the government and the people today. I refer to the problem of how to prevent a depression which is already looming up on the horizon as an imminent possibility immediately in the path of the Canadian people, if not in the path of people in other parts of the world as well.

The growing list of unemployed within our own country, the piling up already of a surplus of agricultural and other products within Canada, and the reports of the failure of the ministers of the government to make certain trade agreements for the disposal of our surpluses, are unmistakable signs that all is not well with Canada for the next few years. If that depression is to be prevented—and I think the matter is worthy of the consideration of this house—it will be agreed by all hon. members that it will be necessary for us to take action now.