

projects were started long before the present Social Credit Government came into office. I mention that, though I do not want to be too partisan, because the present provincial administration has a habit of taking credit to itself for everything that has been done in British Columbia, whether before or after it acquired power, and it is only fair to point out that many of the things I have mentioned today were initiated and in fact completed, before its regime began.

The H. R. MacMillan Harmac plant was completed in 1950. An addition was begun in 1951 and finished in 1954. The total cost of these two developments was \$35 million. Another and smaller enterprise which I should like to mention is a veneer plant operated by Western Plywoods Cariboo Limited at Quesnel: it employs five hundred people and represents an investment of \$1,700,000. The Elk Falls Company Limited, of Duncan Bay, is building a newsprint mill at a cost of \$40 million. Another great industrial development was started by Columbia Cellulose Company at Prince Rupert about five years ago. This pulp mill first came into production in 1951, and the initial investment was about \$27 million. Since then the plant has been considerably enlarged, at a cost of some fifteen to twenty million dollars. Over five hundred persons are employed, and the investment represented today is of the order of \$47 million.

The addition to the plant of the New Westminster Paper Company Limited, which was announced and proceeded with during the Coalition regime under the Liberal leadership of Premier Byron Johnson, involved an outlay of \$2,500,000.

The Alaska Pine and Cellulose Company's addition to its plant at Port Alice, which was started in July 1951, represents a cost of \$8 million. B.C. Forest Products has spent \$2 million on a new veneer plant at Victoria, employing 375 persons. Powell River Pulp and Paper Company Limited has increased the capacity of its plant at Powell River with an outlay of some \$50 million.

These are just a few of the developments which I thought should be specifically mentioned, because it is only right, in my view, that honourable senators and, in fact, all the people of Canada should know of the progress which is being made in the province of British Columbia. In fairness, I must add that under the present government many extensive operations are in progress. Millions of dollars are being spent on industrial developments. Very large outlays are being made by the B.C. Power Commission and the British Columbia Telephone Company. The Frobisher and Venture interests envisage a multimillion dollar project; and

when these and many other plans have come to fruition the effects on the economy of British Columbia will be very marked indeed. Having touched briefly on matters raised in one portion of the Speech from the Throne, I wish to turn for a few moments to another item which, while of peculiar value to our province, is of interest to the rest of Canada, namely the intimation of an improved deal for municipalities affected by the tax-free federal policy under the Municipal Grants Act. It is reported that where the value of federal property in any municipality amounts to more than 2 per cent of the total assessment, that city will get grants equivalent to the full municipal tax. At present, I understand that those communities which contain federal property in excess of 4 per cent get grants equal to 75 per cent of the tax. I have not yet seen the bill, so I do not know what it contains; but if the provisions are generally in line with what is reported, they will be of great value, particularly to my own city of Victoria, which contains \$3,250,000 worth of federal properties. As honourable senators know, there are in Greater Victoria a big naval base and various other federal properties which are not included in this total; but excluding these, the value of federally-owned property in Victoria amounts to roughly 2½ per cent of the 1955 gross assessment.

Everyone welcomes such establishments. One has only to look at the requests for post offices and other public buildings of all kinds throughout the country to realize what tremendous assets they are to the payrolls of the communities concerned. At the same time, the fact that they are usually located on what are, for assessment purposes, the most valuable local sites, means that the tax rolls suffer accordingly. Services of various kinds have to be supplied, and as a consequence the ordinary ratepayer is more heavily taxed because of the existence of these federal buildings. I believe that if the suggested legislation becomes law the harassed ratepayers of cities such as Victoria and Vancouver—to mention only two out of many—will be substantially helped; and I am very glad that this matter has been included in the Speech from the Throne.

I must say a word in connection with another item in the Throne Speech, which is, of course, of peculiar interest to British Columbia; and that is, the proposed provision for the removal of Ripple Rock. For many years Ripple Rock has been causing a "ripple" on the surface of British Columbia, because it is a very, very serious hazard to navigation, and the cost of removing it is considerable; otherwise, I am sure, the Government would have removed it long ago. I know the news