

*The Address—Mr. A. Gauthier*

In order to ensure a constant flow at the great power stations and to regulate the level of lake St. John the year round a huge dam has been built on Peribonka river at a point called Dangerous Pass. Indeed, the whole drainage basin of lake St. John can hold four hundred billion cubic feet of water. As far as waterpower is concerned, the latest developments are two dams being erected on the Peribonka river at Chûte du Diable and at Chûte Savanne. Everybody knows that the Aluminum Company is spending, for the development of those waterfalls, approximately one hundred million dollars.

It goes without saying that the company makes use of the power thus produced. In 1943, the company built a great aluminum plant at Isle Maligne. Once an extension which is being built at the present time is put into operation the production will be trebled. Besides, the new dams which will be completed in the course of 1952 and 1953 will add a further 500,000 horsepower units and, as a natural and logical result of those developments, new plants will be established in the county.

The population increases yearly and, in 1947, parliament recognized officially that prodigious development by doubling the number of representatives for the Lake St. John district, and thus gave me the occasion and the honour of sitting in this house.

I have described somewhat at length the industrial development of my constituency; I have done so because the progress achieved in that part of the country is truly representative of the development that is taking place everywhere in Canada.

I was about to let go unnoticed the great forest reserves which enable our farmers, during the dull season, and professional lumberjacks to make good and well-deserved salaries. In 1950, the government extended the scope of unemployment insurance and agreed to apply that legislation to lumbermen. That group of workers deserved special attention from the government, owing to the seasonal and uncertain nature of their work. The government has proved itself wise and provident in adding lumbermen to those who already benefit from that legislation.

Any enumeration of the riches of the Lake St. John district would be incomplete without some mention of the blueberry. Not only do we have here a delicious, tasty fruit, but this "blue manna", as it has been called, pro-

[Mr. Gauthier (Lake St. John).]

duces an annual revenue of at least one million dollars. In fact, in 1945, this figure rose to two and one half million dollars.

I could hardly bring these remarks on my constituency to an end without mentioning its most stable element, its most important asset, that is, its people.

These are almost entirely of French origin and 60 per cent of them are engaged in agriculture. They are healthy, intelligent and resourceful. They have retained the best French traditions. The mother parish of my constituency, Notre Dame d'Hebertville, holds a record in birth rates. I am told that the average number of children per family is ten and that 50 per cent of its population is of school age. The working class is hard-working and law-abiding. The workers recognize free enterprise but defend stubbornly their right to free trade-unionism. It may be said in a general way that the present generation of my district exercise their activities in terms of the common good. They look to the future and their ambition is to develop, improve and increase the heritage bequeathed by their ancestors. I am proud to pay a tribute to them in the parliament of my country.

Before considering the legislation announced in the speech from the throne, I wish to point out the coming into force of one of the most important measures ever enacted by a parliament since confederation. I mean the Old Age Security Act. Everywhere in my constituency I have heard tributes paid to the government which, through this measure, has given greater scope to its social security program.

The present government remains firm in its ideal of working unremittingly for the betterment of the conditions of all classes and I am glad to express the particular gratitude of all the old people of my county, to the government which is led with skill and wisdom by the Prime Minister.

All my constituents will no doubt approve the government's action in introducing a motion for the establishment of a national library. A number of Canadians suffer from intellectual malnutrition. Love of reading is an acquired taste. We must make public opinion aware of the function of well-trained and specialized librarians. The establishment of a national library will certainly stimulate science and culture. It will most assuredly make Canadians better prepared to discharge