

*The Address—Mr. Villeneuve*

The farmers of Roberval county contribute greatly to the development of the lumbering industry through the manpower they supply especially in winter.

We have, in that county, lumbering co-operative unions, a new and laudable venture in that district characterized by its initiative.

As I stated, lumbering is the main industry of Roberval county. The major operators are the St. Lawrence company, the Price Brothers and Consolidated Paper, who draw their resources in the vicinity of the Mistassini, Ashuapmuchuan and Lièvre rivers. Operations are carried on on an extensive scale. Each year, nearly half a million cords of pulpwood are cut, and this does not take into account lumber. One of the companies, the St. Lawrence Corporation, operates a pulp mill on the shores of the Mistassini river, at Dolbeau. The International Paper Company also carries on lumbering operations in Roberval county and even has a lumbering village in Ventadour township. The St. Lawrence company employs an average of 400 men at Dolbeau.

As a result of this unique industrial activity in our county, a movement is taking shape to set up small industries and we already have a clothing manufacture at Roberval, a concrete and pulp mill at St. Felicien and a brick and related products plant at Mistassini. Needless to say the promoters of small industries in this constituency depend to a large extent on the help and understanding of the Industrial Development Bank. Through diversified industrial activity and agriculture we hope to bring about a normal and stable economy in Roberval county.

The county includes four tidy and progressive towns of no more than 5,000 people.

At the southern end of the county, on the enchanting shore of lake St. John, there is the town of Roberval, the county seat, its cultural, commercial and industrial centre, where are located two hospitals, a small harbour used both by boats and seaplanes and a radio station of 1,000 watts.

At the centre of the county, on the shore of the Ashuapmuchuan river, which is 3,000 feet wide at that point, we find in full expansion the new town of St. Felicien, a commercial and industrial centre which has given itself the title of the "golden gate of Chibougamau", boasting of mooring facilities for seaplanes.

At the northern end of the county, on the opposite shores of the Mistassini river, which is more than 2,000 feet wide at that point, there are to be found two towns, offshoots of the pulp and paper industry, Dolbeau and

[Mr. Villeneuve.]

Mistassini. The former marked last year its 25th anniversary and the latter, where it is my privilege to live, is five years old. Dolbeau is the very model of a modern urban centre which is developing along the lines of a plan put forward at the very moment of its birth. Its business activity is the envy of the whole county. Here we find the only English-speaking and Protestant community in a county which is 95 per cent French-speaking and Catholic. Nevertheless this minority lives among us in perfect freedom, its own institutions being entirely respected. In Dolbeau too we find the Canadian National Railways terminal for this district.

Dolbeau has a sister town, Mistassini, where I live, at the junction of the Mistassini and Mistassibi rivers. It is the youngest and smallest of the four towns in the county of Roberval. In the last ten years, its population has increased from 500 to 3,000. It is gaining every day in commercial importance, drawing its subsistence mainly from forestry. Emulating Dolbeau, but not as well favoured by economic circumstances, Mistassini would very much like to become the very centre for small industry. The first step has already been taken in that direction. The residents of this city also hope that in the near future, thanks to the new dams of Chute du Diable and Chute Savane, the railway network will be extended in such a way as to serve it.

A county as young as the one which I represent, with its expanding economy, has great needs and has great projects, as you may have guessed. In order to help it continue in the way of progress, it has entrusted a mandate to the humble member who now requests sympathetic attention on the part of the hon. members of the cabinet, in order that he may acquit himself of the heavy task which he intends to carry out to the end, in the interest of his electors.

In closing I should like to emphasize particularly how pleased I was to learn from the speech from the throne that this government intended to set up an assistance program for totally disabled persons who are so neglected by our society.

There is no doubt that some federal-provincial agreement will become possible, thus ensuring to the disabled people this attention from the state which they are asking for, especially since the introduction of social measures which are very much appreciated in this country, that is to say the old age pensions and the family allowances.

The Canadian people will have been right in believing that Canadian Liberalism continues to be the perfect way to the most complete social justice, through a sound and