

*The Address—Mr. Hanna*

the speech from the throne. Regardless of what political party may be in power from time to time, I think it is important that that party should draw support from all parts of Canada, and I am certainly glad that this is so at the commencement of this fourth session of the 22nd parliament. It is one more example, I think, of the national unity which is more in evidence throughout Canada as time goes on, and I would like to congratulate my colleague, the hon. member for Gloucester in the province of New Brunswick, on being invited to second the address. His province, we all recall, was one of the four originals in the splendidly conceived confederation of Canada.

May I be permitted, Mr. Speaker, at this point, to say a few words about the province and the city from which I come? I consider myself fortunate indeed to be the representative of a city that has no special problems other than those that arise out of prosperity, growth and good fortune. We in Edmonton are not plagued by any misfortunes of climate, fire, flood or social and economic upheavals such as frequently befall peoples in other parts of the world. Compared with the peoples of many lands, Albertans, and indeed Canadians generally, have every right to be thankful. We do have some problems, it is true, but those problems are relatively small and well within our capacity to solve. I think, Mr. Speaker, it is not out of place at this time to pause and count our many blessings.

Alberta is now coming into its own as one of the richest provinces of Canada. Even today its vast riches are far beyond accurate estimation. The past year 1956 has been by far the most prosperous in our 51-year history. Retail trade was up 10 per cent over 1955. Capital construction planned for Alberta in 1956 was in the neighbourhood of \$900 million. This was about 12 per cent of the capital construction planned for the whole country although Alberta has less than 7 per cent of the total population of Canada. Sales of new automobiles and trucks were up 16 per cent in volume and 30 per cent in dollar value over the previous record year, 1955.

Agriculture, still our basic industry in Alberta, is doing well too. The latest figures which I could obtain show that farm cash income is up about 14 per cent over 1955 although this figure is tempered somewhat by ever-rising farm costs.

Oil production was up not less than 30 per cent over 1955. Oil production in Alberta now averages well over 400,000 barrels a day with a potential of over 700,000 barrels

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a day if markets were available. Power consumption was up 19 per cent over 1955 and so it goes; during 1956, in every area of our economic life, old records tumbled. But Alberta's finest treasure is the quality of her people. They are increasing in numbers, too, although we have room for many more in our province. During the past 12 months the population of Alberta continued to increase and it is now over 1,100,000.

The population of the city of Edmonton proper according to official census figures reached 224,000 last June. This moves Edmonton up from eighth place to sixth place amongst the leading cities of Canada in the short space of five years and during the same period, Mr. Speaker, the population of the constituency of Edmonton-Strathcona increased from 56,000 to over 90,000 which is an increase of 60 per cent. I think that is probably a record.

Since the discovery of oil at Leduc near Edmonton in 1947 the industrialization of Alberta has been taking place very rapidly. During 1956 alone some \$85 million was spent in establishing new industries in the Edmonton area. These new industries, mostly petro-chemical in nature, are attracted to Edmonton largely because of our supply of natural gas. This wonder fuel is not only inexpensive but it serves both as a source of energy and as a source of raw material for our manufacturers.

In 1951, five years ago, 10,500 persons were employed in the manufacturing industry in Edmonton and in 1956, 20,251 persons were so employed, an increase of 90 per cent in five years. Indications are that manufacturing will very soon become Alberta's major industry in terms of dollar value.

They used to say, Mr. Speaker, all the major companies operating in the oil fields and new industries in Edmonton located their head offices elsewhere. In 1956 that has been changed. Not less than ten large office buildings are under construction in Edmonton at the present time representing an investment of over \$30 million.

I know my constituents and the people of Edmonton generally would want me to thank the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marler) for the progress he is making toward the construction of a fine new international airport in the constituency of Edmonton-Strathcona. The necessary site is being acquired and plans are being advanced so that actual construction will start in the coming spring. I can certainly sympathize with those people who have to move off their farms and out of their homes to make way for this new development. However, I am confident that the government will compensate them adequately and I think this is the best we can