

The Address—Mr. Laflamme

first time: the hon. members for Temiscouata (Mr. St. Laurent), Quebec South (Mr. Power) and St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville (Mr. Menard). I am convinced that the house will benefit by their presence here and that their electors will only have cause to be proud of having sent them here. On your behalf, I wish them all possible success in a new career that will undoubtedly be fruitful to their constituency and their country.

As for the other new members, I will leave to people who know them better than I do the care and particularly the pleasure of congratulating them. Words of congratulation will be better felt and expressed by those who share their opinions. However, I have no doubt that, like all of us, they are anxious to promote the greatness of our country and the welfare of all Canadians.

Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to extend to our new Postmaster General (Mr. Lapointe) our most sincere congratulations for that new obvious mark of confidence he has received. A tireless worker, a living example of dignity and of devotion to duty, the hon. member for Lotbinière does great honour to his constituency and to his fellow citizens of his province and of his country.

My presence here reminds you of my predecessor who, since 1940, has represented my constituency, His Excellency the Canadian ambassador to Argentina, Mr. Philippe Picard. He has been serving his country for almost 30 years now and the new post to which he has been called testifies to his great qualifications, to his vast experience in international affairs and to his devotion to his fellow citizens.

I wish, in the name of all members, to pay homage to one who is no longer among us, one who was loved and respected by the house and by everyone, the late Hon. Alcide Côté. Well liked in his constituency, esteemed by all those who had the advantage of knowing him, he had risen very rapidly in public life. His memory will long live in our minds. To his relatives and to his numerous friends I extend our deepest sympathies.

Mr. Speaker, you will no doubt allow me to turn for a moment to my constituency and to satisfy to some extent my desire to say a few words about it.

Located on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, between Levis and Montmagny, and extending southward to the American frontier, my constituency of Bellechasse is one of the oldest counties in the province of Quebec. Settled mostly in the 18th century,

Bellechasse has always remained essentially agricultural; it is made up today of 21 parishes with some a little more populated than others.

Parish life has always been most intense in these parts, a fact which undoubtedly speaks for the devotion my fellow citizens have for their origin, their language and their faith.

To increase its population and retain its many native sons, my constituency needs industry. But its geographic position and proximity to Quebec city make this difficult. Still, it is with pleasure that I note that some industries, thanks to the courage and tenacity of those who have set them up, have undergone remarkable expansion. May I mention among others the Industries Provinciales Limitée, of St. Damien, my native community, the A. Garant et Fils Limitée of St. François and the Filature Saint-Charles Limitée, of St. Charles. The development of these firms is a tribute to their directors and it is fitting that I should point this out.

Each year, however, many of Bellechasse's native sons have to look elsewhere for jobs. That is a problem which could be solved, at least in part, by the development of small scale industry. These young people leave our constituency for larger centres where, especially in winter, they merely swell the ranks of the unemployed. I feel that government assistance to small industries would go a long way towards solving the difficult problem of unemployment as well as the housing shortage.

It is with pleasure in this connection that I point out that the present government, through the industrial development bank, has already helped the expansion of small scale industries by making provision for loans.

According to the annual report for the 1955 fiscal year, the bank, between November 1, 1944 and September 30, 1955 had authorized 1,468 loans, amounting to \$123,724,603.

I would nevertheless like to suggest that a lowering of the interest rate and an easing of the conditions of the loans would possibly promote greater progress in the small industries field.

I have noted with pleasure in the speech from the throne the fact that the government does wish to broaden the scope of the work of this important agency. To my mind, this will promote greater development in this field.

As regards unemployment, the present government has already adopted highly beneficial measures. I am happy to point out that the