

The Address—Mr. Lamb

I should like this department of forestry and rural development to be completely separate from the others, with its own budget and its own deputy ministers.

Speaking of deputy ministers, if we want to give proper consideration to the problems of these people, there should be two deputy ministers: one responsible for forestry and the other for rural development. In this manner, the minister will be able to give special attention to each one of his departments.

I hope the government will give some thought to working out for this department programs like ARDA, farm credit, purchase of feed grain for the east, etc.

This department should have the power to direct the agricultural policy in eastern Canada, and this, I feel, is very important.

It is our duty to regain the confidence of the eastern farmers by giving them evidence that the government is eager to settle this long lasting problem.

[Text]

There were many other items in the speech from the throne, such as the Canada pension plan, a national labour code, interest free loans to students, and so forth, that others much more capable than I will be able to comment on.

[Translation]

Before I conclude my remarks I should like to say a few words about a question deemed delicate in certain quarters but which we must discuss and which we must stop considering as a problem unique to our country.

This uneasiness we would like to dispel, this misunderstanding between our two ethnic groups can be removed by greater comprehension, mutual respect and tolerance. My grandfather showed such understanding during the 30 consecutive years he devoted to the service of the district I now have the honour to represent and, even though he was of Irish descent, his most sincere supporters were the French speaking Canadians of the constituency of Richmond-Wolfe.

[Text]

The unity of our country does not depend solely on the British North America Act or other rights set forth in legislation. I do not think that some of our public figures today weigh their words very carefully when they nibble away at the foundations of our great Canada. Understanding between our ethnic groups, showing a little more wisdom and tolerance, is essential in the difficult times we are facing today.

Mr. Charles Lamb (Victoria, Ont): Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with all the previous [Mr. Asselin (Richmond-Wolfe).]

speakers in extending my congratulations to the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. It is with considerable pleasure that I also extend my congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on the manner in which you conduct the affairs of your office. When parliament is in session we hear many debates and speeches on many diversified subjects from many fine representatives of a great many constituencies. There are times when I think we should forget weighty matters pertaining to Canada and the world at large and listen to what our different constituencies have to offer to our people and the world in general.

I am very proud to represent the constituency of Victoria, which includes Haliburton and north Ontario. Victoria county was named after the great and illustrious Queen Victoria and the majority of streets, avenues and crescents in the town of Lindsay are named after royalty, nobility, lords, peers and viscounts of the British realm. For instance, we have streets called Kent, Melbourne, Durham, Sussex, Cambridge, Wellington, Queen, King, Albert, Regent, Elgin and Bond. As years went by the citizens of Victoria county lived up to the name, and the roots of our people have always been planted firm in the commonwealth. This fact has been demonstrated on many occasions when the clarion call of war was heard. Thousands of our sons and daughters joined the ranks to weld a mighty Canadian army, especially in world war I when the member of parliament for Victoria and Haliburton was Canada's first minister of militia, the late Hon. General Sir Sam Hughes.

Victoria county was first essentially an agricultural district. Much depended in those early days on the county to the north, Haliburton county, named after Lord Haliburton. The county of Haliburton was, and is to this day, rich in vast timber limits and for years produced great piles of timber. Indeed, at one time some of the tallest timber in Canada was found in Haliburton county and many thousands of tall, straight trees shorn of their limbs were transported by water through the winding lakes in Haliburton county to the St. Lawrence and piled on ocean-going freighters, their destination being England. In England these massive timbers were used as mastheads for many an ocean-plying vessel. As a side note, it is interesting that only recently another great commodity from Haliburton county was transported to England, namely long steel rails from the old Irondale, Bancroft and Ottawa railway. These steel rails, the best in the world, have been reprocessed in the razor blade industry.

With the depletion of vast bushland the Haliburton people turned their vision and