

concerned, we were not getting the service from the radio commission that we deserved. I am not blaming the radio commission or any other public body, but the house must be seized of this fact: If all the northern sections of Canada were absolutely in favour of the nationalization of radio it was because they realized that under then existing conditions the cities received the service they desired, while in the northern sections of Canada they were not and are not getting the service to which they were entitled. In my own section of the country at the present time at least ninety per cent of the radio users are not paying their licence fees. I have received dozens and in fact hundreds of letters from radio owners asking for my advice in this connection. Naturally I tell them that I believe they should pay their licence fees, but when one considers the little service they get for the money they spend in fees, equipment and so on, it is hard to blame them for not doing so. They get absolutely no reception in the daytime and in many instances they are unable to get reception at night.

According to my information the government, whether through the Department of Marine or the radio commission I do not know, had in view the expenditure of \$5,000,000 in the construction of high powered radio stations across northern Canada. I make a very serious appeal to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Stewart): I ask him if it is not possible at least partly to implement that undertaking. It would be one of the very best ways to give radio service to the section of the population that most needs it. At one time it took nearly three weeks to go to Moosonee; now the railway runs there, and the trip can be made in a very short time. But I want the government to understand that our pioneer population, who are within seven hundred or eight hundred miles of the capital, receive their daily papers at least thirty-six to forty-eight hours late. So the government should be fully aware of the situation with regard to those people; they should realize what it means to those people to be able to receive the broadcasts of the radio commission. I believe the people in the north are playing the game; they are extending civilization year by year, as their forefathers did in southern Ontario and on the shores of the St. Lawrence, but they are not receiving the treatment to which they are entitled.

I ask the Minister of Public Works if he will not try to implement the promises that were made in my part of the country. I remember that the present chairman of the

[Mr. Bradette.]

radio commission told us we would have a high powered station located somewhere between Timmins and Sudbury, but so far we have obtained only local broadcasting stations in Timmins and Kirkland Lake. I understand that another is to be installed either at New Liskeard or Englehart, and there is another at North Bay. I have no quarrel with these local stations; they are giving a service to the people of those localities, but because of their wave lengths and their low power it is absolutely impossible for people more than a few miles away to receive their broadcasts. In any case hon. members will readily realize that local broadcasting is not sufficient for that whole region; we are entitled to better service than that. I believe I am speaking also for the people of northern Quebec; I am sure the hon. member for Pontiac (Mr. Bellec), who is in his place, will voice the same criticism with regard to the radio situation in his part of the country. I intend to keep up the fight until we receive the consideration we deserve. When I was discussing the proposed gold tax some hon. gentlemen opposite tried to make the house believe that some of us on this side were local in our point of view. I believe I proved quite clearly, however, that the gold tax would affect practically every citizen in this country. The same statement would apply to gold mining and the mining industry generally, and it applies also to the radio situation. We are entitled to the same service that is given in the larger centres of population, such as Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto. In the next fifty years our great development will be in the northern section of Canada; that is where our great natural resources lie.

As I say, Mr. Speaker, I intend to carry on my fight. I am no prophet; I do not know what may happen at the next general election, but if I sit on the government benches I am going to carry on the fight as strongly as I am carrying it on at the present time, because I am fully convinced that so far as radio broadcasting is concerned that fine pioneer population is not receiving the service it deserves. I am not speaking politically when I say that. I received a great deal of information from the committee and also from the radio commission. I understand that under their departmental budget it was impossible for them to give us the service we requested, but surely in this public works program it should be possible to do so even if we have to increase the amount to be voted. This afternoon some hon. gentlemen said we were having mild inflation. This is not the time for me to discuss that matter, but if there is to be an increased circulation of our Cana-