

maritime provinces but for all Canada; for if they grow, we will grow, just as if the west grows, we will grow.

The maritimes are full of resources. I did mention gypsum. I have on my desk a sample of slate from Hillsborough. It is as good slate as you will find anywhere. Why are we not shipping this slate all over Ontario and Quebec instead of bringing it in trainloads from Indiana and elsewhere in the United States? Give us water traffic. Give us cheap traffic and cheap freight. Load it up at Hillsborough and send it up through the Chignecto canal to central Canada. In that way you will get big business down there.

Here is another resource. It is oil shale. I do not know how many millions of tons of this there may be. I examined into it very carefully. During the last two or three years this country has spent \$60,000 working these oil shale mines which are near Hillsborough. I saw along the track a pile of several hundred bags of this material. They had been lying there two or three years, and I took this piece out of one of them. I was not thieving; I had with me a man who told me I could have it. This has a value. Why is it not being developed? It should be developed. If the maritimes had half a chance they would go forward as the rest of Canada is going forward; but they are away down there in the forgotten part of Canada. Well, I am going to try to rip off the blinds and open all the doors there so that the rest of Canada can see what a wonderful place it is. Instead of having perhaps a little over a million people they should have two or three million, or more.

Then I went to a little place called Shediac, where I met a splendid man who was engaged in the processing of fish. I have forgotten his name, but I believe at one time some of his people were senators here. In 1943 that area shipped 27,000,000 pounds of fish from Shediac to the New England states, but on every pound they shipped they had to pay twice the freight they should have paid. If they could load it on a boat at Shediac, as they can, and take it through the Chignecto canal, the fishermen would get a great deal more for what they take from the sea. Those seas are full of fish, but these people are obstructed. They should have a chance to expand, but how can they with all these bottlenecks?

That is the situation all over the three provinces. There are vast resources of timber, fish, minerals and agriculture. I might say just one word further about the island. I investigated the situation there very carefully, and what I have said about New Brunswick

and Nova Scotia applies there also. In the harbour of Charlottetown there is a splendid place for the construction of an elevator. I spoke to several hog producers there. They told me they were now raising about 70,000 hogs a year, a mere bagatelle for an island like that, but to do that they had brought from the west, I suppose under the assisted freight rates programme, something like 10,000,000 bushels of western grain to feed their cattle and hogs. Give them a line of boats from Charlottetown to Churchill; let them bring down not 10,000,000 bushels a year but 30,000,000 bushels of grain from the west. In that way you would promote interprovincial trade; you would do something to keep down the deficit on the Hudson Bay railway, and you would help the people of that island. If they could raise 70,000 hogs last year there is no reason why they could not raise a million hogs within a short time.

Mr. GARDINER: I have been advocating that for twenty years, but I could not get anyone to back me up.

Mr. MacNICOL: I will back you up. I notice that you and I see eye to eye on a good many things.

Mr. KNOWLES: You are both socialists.

Mr. MacNICOL: Socialists nothing. There is no socialist about me and the minister is not a socialist either. I will back him up in any programme to bring to the maritime provinces through Churchill, twenty or thirty million bushels of grain a year and thus cut down the deficits on the railways of this country. Then we will be doing something for the country instead of taking other people's money as we are doing now.

What would that mean? It would mean that thousands of young men and women who now have to leave the maritime provinces—and what I have said would apply also to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick—for jobs in the New England states processing raw materials from Canada, would remain in this country and take jobs here. That would give our maritime provinces a chance to grow, it would let their economy expand and give them more employment. As far as I know that is the only way it can be done. If we as Canadians pull together and work together I believe the whole country will expand. One part cannot expand while the remainder stays still. I remember that the firm with which I was associated twenty or twenty-five years ago did ship thousands of carloads of material to the maritimes. Let the maritimes expand; then that firm will ship over the years perhaps