

*The Address—Mr. Decore*

light of developments that have occurred in the West Texas Permian basin, where reef structures have given very prolific oil production.

The Norman Wells field in the Northwest Territories in the Mackenzie river valley is also a reef in the Devonian.

Dr. Hume expressed the hope that reef structures will be found to be very widespread, and that such a formation will continue from the Edmonton fields to the Mackenzie river valley. If such hope ever became a reality, the area I have made reference to may become the greatest centre of oil production in the world.

There is no question of the part that the Vegreville constituency will play in our Canadian economy, especially when we are trying to conserve United States dollars. It is unfortunate, however, that although some farmers in that constituency have mineral rights, many of them have not. Since this matter is entirely within the jurisdiction of the government of Alberta, it is hoped that that government will eventually see fit to give some recognition to farmers who have only surface rights.

I should also like to refer to the Elk island park, situated within my constituency. A few weeks ago the Minister of Mines and Resources had occasion to visit this park. It has become one of the most popular recreational centres in northern Alberta, but aside from its recreational features it has the distinction of being the largest fenced animal reserve in Canada. You will find roaming over its lush pastures over a thousand buffalo, and many moose, deer and elk. I refer to Elk island park because I understand that the government, for educational purposes, plans the construction of a museum in this park, tracing the historic development in northern Alberta of early settlers from the pioneer days. I hope that this museum will include a replica of a palisaded fort used as a trading post in early days in that area, as well as a typical structure of the pioneer homes used by the early settlers and the ingenious ways and means that they devised to construct these homes without the necessity of buying ready-made material.

Most of the population of Alberta is mainly engaged in agriculture, or is indirectly dependent on it. There are therefore problems pertaining to agriculture in that province which are peculiar to that part of Canada. Although it is not often that we have drought conditions in northern Alberta, this year in my constituency there was a considerable lack of rain, and the crops of the farmers are poor. It is hoped that the minister will introduce such amendments to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act as will make it possible to reduce these large blocks, so that farmers in that area, especially in northern Alberta—and the

same applies to northern Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba—will be eligible under the act.

The people of the rest of the western provinces, along with the people of Alberta, feel keenly about freight rates, and it is hoped that some adjustment will be made by which the distribution of such freights may be more equitable for western Canada. I might also add that there is a well represented farmers' organization in Alberta known as the Farmers' Union of Alberta. The leaders of this organization are well acquainted with farm problems, and it is my sincere wish that should any representations be made to this government by various delegates from this farmers' organization the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) will receive them favourably, provided of course that such representations or requests are within reason and fair.

My attention is also drawn to the fact, by people living in my constituency along the Canadian National Railways from Edmonton by way of St. Paul to Heinsburg, that this line is not completed. There is a gap of some thirty-nine miles from Heinsburg, Alberta, to a point in Saskatchewan called Frenchman's Butte. Because this gap is not completed, the farmers are getting less for their produce. I might also add that along this same line is located the Redwater oilfield, and further along the line there is a salt mine. There is quite a demand for rail transportation, and it is my sincere hope that the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) will enter into consultation with the directors of the Canadian National Railways and suggest to them the advisability of completing this gap of some thirty-nine miles.

The population of the Vegreville constituency is made up of various racial groups. In it you will find Canadians of different extractions, including Germans, Scandinavians, French, Polish, Roumanian, Scots, Anglo-Saxons and others. By far the largest group are Canadians of Ukrainian origin. These people originally migrated from Europe some fifty-five years ago, from a country where they knew nothing but suppression and obscurity. They came to Canada seeking better opportunities for themselves and for their children. Above all, they chose this land because they wanted freedom. It is almost impossible for me to describe the difficulties that these people had to surmount upon their arrival in Canada. Not only were they poor, but they had no knowledge of the English language, and they were not acquainted with Canadian institutions. They were allowed to settle on land which was considered the wilderness of the west. If you were to go through these communities today, Mr. Speaker, you