

*The Address—Mr. Dumas*

How true and how timely were his words. Like other mining and colonization settlements, the constituency of Villeneuve has been cleared of far too many trees. Though crown forest lands come under the jurisdiction of the provinces, as a forestry engineer highly devoted to our forests I urge the government of Canada to help them more and more in conserving and protecting our forests without, however, interfering with provincial autonomy. Our people need to be educated in the management, protection and conservation of forests through reforestation.

May I be permitted to draw the attention of the house to the magnificent work carried out in this field by the Association Forestière Québécoise, by the Canadian Forestry Association and by other provincial groups affiliated with the latter. If the interest shown by the Canadian public in regard to forestry matters has constantly increased in the last few years, it is due to a great extent to the policies of these various associations. The remarkable Canada Forestry Act passed at the last session makes for closer cooperation between the state and these forestry organizations, and all those who have the conservation of our forestry resources at heart welcome this measure.

The Canadian shield, but recently a desert region, is being rapidly populated and developed. Not only does it provide the whole of Canada with metals, lumber and timber, farm products and furs, but its growing population, its purchasing power, its needs stimulate the manufacturing industries of our cities.

As can readily be ascertained by a look at an up-to-date map, the economic face of the Canadian shield is undergoing a complete change. Wherever a means of access has been opened into that part of the country, we have witnessed a shift of population. I shall only refer to the Hudson Bay railway in Manitoba, to the Northern Ontario railway which goes from North Bay to James Bay, to the Senneterre-Noranda line which traverses my constituency and that of Chapleau, as well as to the mining and agricultural communities whose establishment was made possible through the building of those railways. There are many more districts still waiting for the railways and modern highways which will allow them to play a leading part in our economic life. I am thinking now of the Mégiscane valley, of the Bell river basin, of the great Matta-

gami lake basin, of the Bachelor lake and Chibougamau regions, of the northern part of the constituency of Chapleau, which I know particularly well. There are in those districts productive lands where thousands of Canadians could settle, virgin forests and mines which should be developed without further delay.

Last year, the Canadian National Railways opened a new line of approximately forty miles from Barraute to Beattyville. Already five or six settlements have been opened because of that trunk line. I firmly hope that this new railroad will soon be extended to Chibougamau in order to connect eventually with the lake St. John system. If the Canadian government undertakes public works, I do not know of any that could be more useful than those aimed at the development of our natural resources. Not only would this give work to those who need it, but new sources of employment would thus be created.

When modern civilization reaches all those new areas, the economy of our country will be entirely changed. The Canadian shield which now divides the natural regions of Canada will become a link and will direct our economy in an easterly-westerly direction which will counteract the present northerly-southerly trend; this will extend the frontiers of Canada while fostering a greater measure of unity. In the economic and social fields, and even in the political sphere, the results of such unification will become a decisive factor in our country's future.

I do not wish to take undue advantage of the indulgence of this house, but I should not like to conclude without recalling that for the great majority of the people of the constituency of Villeneuve and for a considerable part of the people of Canada, 1950 is a holy year. May the whole world soon realize that our civilization will survive only if it puts into practice the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount. While protecting ourselves against the forces of evil and the communist virus, let us hope, for our common honour, that 1950 will recall to our children and great-grandchildren not the universal hatred and destruction that could be spread by the super-bomb but the defensive union of the north Atlantic democratic countries intent upon maintaining world peace. As far as our people are concerned, the year 1950 will remind them of the signing of a charter which will really