

The Address—Mr. Bruneau

jail sentences if they desert ship or seek to be paid off at other than a Canadian port before the end of that year, deserve more protection than they are getting at the present time. The mere warning to the ship owners by the government that vessels traversing these waters would be in danger seems hardly adequate to protect Canadian seafaring men.

With respect to these one-year contracts I noticed that the report of the maritime commission, in referring to the strike of Canadian seamen, had this to say:

The system whereby owners and the union make an agreement governing wages and working conditions for one year allows grievances to be built up on both sides over that period, so that negotiations for the renewal of the annual agreement usually commence in an atmosphere of mutual hostility and mistrust. In our opinion many of the difficulties would be overcome by the establishment of a national maritime board, representative of both employers and seamen, similar to the national maritime board in the United Kingdom, which provides in effect for continuous negotiation of wages and working conditions at any time whereby grievances can be quickly dealt with through the operation of port panels.

I bring this to the attention of the government in the hope that this matter may be given consideration so that if it is practicable and desirable some amendment to the Canada Shipping Act may be introduced to deal with these points.

Just before I conclude my remarks I should like to stress the difficulties our seafaring men are experiencing at the present time due to the reduction in the number of vessels in the Canadian merchant marine. As everyone knows, our merchant marine has been drastically reduced, with the result that thousands of Canadian officers and seamen have been thrown out of their jobs. The reduction in the number of Canadian merchant vessels has also had a very serious effect upon the operations of the shipyards on Vancouver island, both with respect to shipbuilding and the repair of ships. As a result many men in these associated trades are also out of jobs. I do hope the government will lose no time in authorizing the commencement of work on the new minesweeper which it was announced last year would be built by the Victoria Machinery Depot Company, on which work has not yet begun. It will relieve the unemployment in those shipbuilding trades, and will help those men to bridge over a period of readjustment, which is causing them the greatest anxiety and the greatest difficulty, because many of them have to seek occupation in trades quite different from those in which they have been brought up from their early days of apprenticeship.

Mr. Raymond Bruneau (Prescott): Mr. Speaker, I believe it is a great privilege for any representative in this house to be able to

[Mr. Pearkes.]

rise and voice the opinion of those he has the honour to represent in the management of the country's affairs. In the name of the people in my constituency, I wish to support all those who have so eloquently and admirably proposed the adoption of the speech from the throne which, in itself, constitutes a vote of confidence in our present government. To those who have doubts as to the confidence which the people of Canada still hold in the party in power, and to those to whom the people have accorded acknowledgment in the form of such a huge majority on June 27 last, I would advise a trip through my constituency. It would soon convince them that the farmer, the workman, the man in business, and the man on the street, have greater faith than ever in this administration.

With regard to our leader, Mr. St. Laurent, my people, the majority of whom are of French origin, and our brothers of other extractions, hold him in the same esteem that our predecessors had for another outstanding Liberal leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In that capacity, we all expect as much from him as those who came before us achieved through the Laurier administration. Let me congratulate, sir, our Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) on the wonderful exposé he gave us while commenting on the speech from the throne. His great sense of duty and serious interest in finding a solution to our present problems are worthy of commendation.

I join with all my colleagues in congratulating the mover and seconder of the resolution now under debate, the hon. member for Kindersley (Mr. Larson), and the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Dumas). I am sure that the province of Saskatchewan, and Canada at large, has reason for rejoicing in the election of this young representative from Kindersley, and are justified in entertaining high hopes for a promising career.

(Translation):

As for my hon. friend, the member for Villeneuve (Mr. Dumas), I wish to congratulate him heartily, on behalf of all my colleagues, for the wonderful manner in which he discharged his heavy responsibilities a few days ago. I feel, without exaggeration, that all the French-speaking members in this house were rightfully proud of their compatriot in whom they have great hopes.

(Text):

Before commenting further on the salient points in the speech from the throne, Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to give you certain information concerning the constituency I have the honour to represent. The county of Prescott is situated halfway between the capital city of Ottawa and the metropolis of