

*Supply—Transport*

will have all his groceries on the sidewalk before he builds his store. It is not natural to expect that you will have at this time a full indication of all the traffic that the canal will carry. The need for the canal will become all the more apparent once it is built. It was a promise of confederation and it is something that we have been waiting for ever since.

I am very glad to say that the Campbellton-Cross Point bridge will be completed this year. The Chignecto canal will be built by some government sooner or later, and as the member of parliament from one of the constituencies of the maritime provinces I urge the government to be the one to build the canal. Why should we let another government take credit for the building of the canal? Why can we not realize that the canal has to be built soon or later? Let us do it now. Why further hold up the industrial progress of the maritime provinces?

This link between the bay of Fundy and Northumberland strait would mean a whole new era, a whole new trend in the industrial development of the lower end of the province of New Brunswick. It would also mean cheap transportation by water. It would restore an advantage we had before confederation which was lost with confederation. I do not know of any party that is not in favour of the canal. I do not know of any member of parliament who is not in favour of the canal. I think we have an opportunity now to urge the government to proceed with the expenditure of the \$100 million-odd that the building of the canal will require and build the canal now.

We have come to call the canal the Atlantic seaway, to be a natural adjunct to the St. Lawrence seaway. Truer words were never uttered. The Chignecto canal would be a natural continuation of the St. Lawrence seaway. You did not hear the maritime members oppose the building of the St. Lawrence seaway. We felt it was good for Canada. Let no member of the house oppose the building of the Chignecto canal, for it will also be for the benefit of Canada.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I wonder whether the hon. member would permit a question?

**Mr. Van Horne:** Yes.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** During the course of his rare visits to the house did he ever notice the fact that the hon. member for Halifax has opposed the building of the Chignecto canal with great violence?

**Mr. Henderson:** Mr. Chairman—

**Mr. Van Horne:** May I answer the question?

**The Deputy Chairman:** Will the hon. member for Cariboo allow the hon. member to answer?

**Mr. Henderson:** Yes.

**Mr. Van Horne:** You know, Mr. Chairman, it is only when I look at the hon. jack-in-the-box, the member for Bonavista-Twillingate, that I realize why Mackenzie King went across an ocean to get his advice from the ghosts. I was impressed the other day in watching a television program on which a lady from England said that she had tuned in to Mackenzie King.

**Mr. Winch:** Answer the question.

**Mr. Van Horne:** I suggest that the hon. member get tuned in to Mackenzie King. I have no doubt that there may be some partisan interests, possibly in Halifax, who would hinder the progress of the whole country by asking the government to apply partisan considerations to a national need. What if the government had listened to partisan considerations in the case of the St. Lawrence seaway? It would never have been built. It may be that a member of parliament may feel that the Chignecto canal would hurt the port of Halifax. I do not think the Chignecto canal will hurt any port in Canada, any more than the building of the year-round port at Dalhousie, which the minister will open in two months' time, will hinder business in the ports of Halifax and Saint John. One of the things we are going to do is to run a line from Bonavista-Twillingate to Dalhousie to make sure that from now on the hon. member gets proper information.

I think it is wrong for members like the hon. member who asked me this question to try to put stumbling blocks in the way of the building of the canal. I dare anyone in the house, especially the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, to get up and say he is opposed to the Chignecto canal. The needs of the maritime provinces are far greater than the little insinuations that the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate inserts into this discussion. If I had been in Nova Scotia you can be sure I would have been attending the funeral of the Liberal party, for it was a funeral.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, on a question of privilege, I want to make it very clear that my position as to the Chignecto canal is on the record publicly. It is that the earliest possible study should be made of the economic and other aspects of the canal with a view to constructing it for the Atlantic provinces if it can be done.

**Mr. Van Horne:** If it can be done. It has got to be done.