

*The Address—Mr. Bourdages*

(d) Three companies out of four expect that commodity and export prices will remain as they are;

(e) Salary levels in general will continue to increase, according to at least 75 per cent of the people polled;

(f) At least half of the Canadian enterprises of large or medium importance which have been polled have well defined plans for the improvement of their plants, and intend to develop new industrial plants in 1962. Such are the extraordinary results of the industrial and commercial activities of the country, which constitute the best evidence that the economic recession which plagued Canada over the last three years is now definitely a thing of the past.

This is obviously only the first step in the expansion of our international trade. We have reason to hope that other markets will soon be opened for our products and that the efforts of free enterprise ably seconded by the officials of the trade and commerce department will be successful.

Barely a year ago a far too large number of Canadians were dispirited by the climate of depression. The reason was that several prophets of doom and gloom were predicting that the worst disasters would befall the Canadian nation, while strangely ignoring the effort made to effect a recovery in all sectors of our national economy.

Such a pessimistic approach to our problems could have been nefarious for many. Perturbed by the climate of depression foreseen by the members of that gloomy caravan, they could have cancelled all their plans for development and exports, which were essential to the development of the economic life of the nation.

It is certain that businessmen from abroad, concerned over the bad news from Canada, delayed and even cancelled their plans for investment in this country. One has to admit that some foreign newspapermen, influenced by the constantly pessimistic statements of the government's opponents, expressed their misgivings in articles published in French and British newspapers.

Fortunately however, facts have confirmed the success of the steps taken by the Conservative government, which in time created an atmosphere of irresistible confidence among businessmen. The economy of Canada is definitely launched on the road of progress and prosperity.

The Conservative government opens new economic vistas. It promised, for instance, that it would take dynamic steps to offer direct assistance to industries. It built paved roads in inaccessible areas in order that the products of the soil and the sub-soil may reach the heart of the country. It built wharves, enlarged harbours and facilitated the entrance of cargo-carrying ships. It built railways that link the spur lines to mines of

all kinds. Thanks to its efforts, the farthest corners, the most forsaken places are open to the benefits of civilization.

A start has been made. We will go farther into the interior, mountains will be levelled, if necessary, bridges will span gullies. But Canada will go forward. Canada's future is most promising. The Conservative government will see to it. It has made promises. It has kept them. It even wants to go beyond its promises and, consequently, give to the people so long neglected in those remote regions, a true, realistic hope, not the visionary hope of the previous administrations, of having at last the right to live like everybody else.

The Conservative party is the friend of the underprivileged, of the poor. It wants to help them, to grant their every wish, if possible. The happiness of all is the key to its success.

Today we can state strongly that Canada is living in an era of prosperity. Industry, trade, business hire more and more people. In fact, the number of Canadians at work has increased from 6,029,000 in August 1957 to 6,381,000 in August 1961, which represents a total of 352,000 new jobs created by the party in power during those four years.

The experts predict that the gross national product will go up 6 or 7 per cent in 1962. Unemployment will decrease and employment will rise. The purchasing power of Canadians will have no equal.

These wonderful successes are the doing of shrewd and intelligent administrators who have retained the unlimited confidence of the people.

Confidence of the people is the strength of a people. The whole story of these last four years is one of common efforts, of mutual help. Canada is made up of ten provinces, all have their part to play within confederation.

Each has its own characteristics. Each is beautiful in its own way. They make up a magnificent display. They need one another. It is much more than a good neighbour policy. It is close unity. In a few words, it is a profound national unity, well understood and respectful of vested rights. Alone, man would perish. United, he sets up what we call a society. Canada is strong because it is united, because we have the feeling that its unity will develop into a closer and more efficient association. From Halifax to Vancouver, Canada is a great and grand country. Certainly in its geography, but even more so