

*The Address—Mr. Smerchanski*

travelled in the York boats through the mosquito and blackfly infested swamps.

For many years the Winnipeg river served as a historic water highway for the fur traders who came from Montreal to the head of the lakes, and then continued west and over the height of land into the headwaters of the Winnipeg river. This is a fast, treacherous river, and some of the hardships which the voyageurs encountered while travelling down the Winnipeg river are unknown to today's travellers. The present area through which the Winnipeg river flows is generally the same as it was 200 years ago.

In 1738, Jean Baptiste La Verendrye was the first explorer to discover the beautiful Winnipeg river. This explorer-voyageur in search of the western ocean, discovered the fur rich northwest and lake Winnipeg. Little did he realize that the Winnipeg river is only half way between Montreal and the Pacific ocean. However, it became the most important and the most travelled water highway for the thousands of brigades of freight laden canoes which came and went from lake Winnipeg. Mackenzie and Simpson, the founders of the Hudson's Bay fur trade, were frequent canoe travellers on the Winnipeg river.

• (4:20 p.m.)

The explorers and voyageurs were followed by many men from new France and the British Isles, a large percentage of whom remained in the area and took Indian wives. Today their children are known as the Métis. Today, in the constituency of Provencher, the past is remembered with pain, pride and hardship. Time has helped to heal these wounds. Time has taught tolerance and understanding to those who came into this area from distant lands seeking a new life. These people knew what poverty was and won their own war on poverty through hard work. They became good citizens of Canada. Today there are over 20 different ethnic groups working and living together in my constituency. These people, their fathers and forefathers, live together harmoniously, contributing their talents and energies to this fine land of ours, not only the province of Manitoba but the country as a whole.

These people have not and do not believe that any government, whether it be federal or provincial, should take care of them from the cradle to the grave. My academic training has been in the field of geological engineering. I am fully aware of the potential, and of the development of our natural resources in most

[Mr. Smerchanski.]

of the mining areas of Canada, whether in New Brunswick, in the Gaspé, north of Noranda, in the Elliot Lake uranium fields, in the nickel-copper sections of northern Manitoba at Thompson and Flin Flon, in the copper occurrences along the Coppermine on the shores of the Arctic ocean, in the silver development in the Osoyoos area of southern British Columbia, or the magnetite, sand and iron deposits in the Queen Charlotte Islands. I am pleased to be a Canadian when I see the potential wealth of this great country of ours.

However, Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but become involved and enthused in so far as the speech from the throne is concerned. It describes the policies of the Liberal government. These policies resulted in the election of the Liberal party by the people of Canada. During the last few days we have heard such critical phrases as, "tidying up", "new ventures", "secret society", "use wisely the human resources in the country". I find myself in complete disagreement with these phrases. Our Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and our just society came through the election campaign with 154 seats, as against 110 scattered among the other parties. This is proof of the appeal these measures had for the people of Canada. I believe, and I believe very strongly, that all of us in this house should apply ourselves to criticizing constructively and contributing to good government. What we do or say will make tomorrow a possibility.

In particular, Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the government upon the placing of ARDA, FRED and ADA under one department. This combined and unified effort will produce results. We truly have an excellent opportunity to develop manpower programs, make regional improvements, and thus give to the people of Canada as is stated in the speech from the throne, "as equal access as possible to the opportunities of Canada's economic development". Limits should be instituted on the assistance given to costly industrial plants, because most of them are highly mechanized. They use a limited amount of labour. Instead, small industrial development should be encouraged in the rural sections of our country. These would provide jobs in rural areas and displace poverty. Small business development funds should be encouraged by the government in participation with free enterprise. Let industry have a vested monetary interest and in addition provide the management and know-how for industrial development. The government