

mayor of one of our large cities in the province of Quebec with reference to the unemployment situation. He knew I had been interested in the subject a few years ago as a Minister of the Crown. He indicated that his city was one in which substantial industries were located, industries which were heavily hit by reason of the increase in the British preference recently granted. The ultimate result was that 1,300 of those industrial workers in that city were out of employment, an unprecedented situation, and some 300 families were being supported by the city in order to keep them alive. One wonders whether or not Canada is under obligation to look after her own people first, and to provide employment for them, or to so amend the tariff regulations as to deprive our own people of a livelihood, and to make employment for people in other countries. My idea is that our duty is to our own people first, and that there should not be preferential treatment accorded to any other nation if such treatment interferes with the right of our own Canadian citizens to earn a decent livelihood.

Then followed the question of transportation, closely interwoven with our publically-owned transportation system in particular, and perhaps no less with the Canadian Pacific Railway. We must have greatly increased traffic if they are to succeed. There is nobody more concerned in the success of the National Railways than the people of Canada, unless it be the Canadian Pacific Railway itself, which is equally interested, and of which it has been properly said by the president of that corporation that the C.P.R. is the largest taxpayer in the country, and therefore interested from that standpoint.

When we consider that we have in this vast country only 221 people to each mile of railway to provide and produce traffic, while in the country to the south of us there are 450 people to every railway mile, we must at once come to the inevitable conclusion that the solution of our railway problems and transportation difficulties lies in an increased population—a greater number of people to produce traffic to be carried over the railways that we now have. In this connection my opinion is that this country, unless special justification can be shown, ought not to build any further unnecessary railroads until the vast spaces now served by existing lines are producing traffic.

I feel that I have probably exceeded the bounds of propriety in speaking at such length, and I beg the indulgence of the House. No doubt from time to time during the present Session opportunities will be given to discuss each of these subjects more in de-

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON.

tail. May I say just a word of general import? Perhaps it may be regarded as not quite in order, or unusual at this time. For twenty odd years it has been my lot to quite constantly travel over our entire country, and, honourable gentlemen, I feel it is a duty as far as it is reasonably possible for every man in either House of Parliament to familiarize himself between Sessions with the conditions that obtain in the far-away parts of this country, so that when we meet together here there may be a better understanding of and a greater sympathy for the problems of the other fellow than has existed in times gone by. It is difficult for the coal miner in Nova Scotia to see the side of the employer in the controversy that is now going on between employer and employed in that great industry which has been so seriously retarded by long-drawn-out disputes. Likewise, the western grain-grower in my opinion does not understand the mentality or the problems of the eastern city dweller or even of the eastern farmer. It is true also that without seeing the great western plains and knowing something of the ambitions and problems of the people of the west, it is quite impossible for a citizen of the east to fully comprehend their view. Therefore I would suggest that as far as possible by individual effort, or as the Government may see fit to encourage it, that it would be useful in the deliberations of this House if members were to make themselves familiar with the circumstances and surroundings of questions that come before us for consideration.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, I join with my honourable friend in expressing my appreciation of the two speeches which we heard from the honourable gentleman from New Brunswick (Hon. Mr. Robinson) and the honourable gentleman from Quebec (Hon. Mr. Tessier). They have treated the questions in the Speech from the Throne which interested them both from a high plane. The honourable gentleman from New Brunswick brings to this Chamber an experienced and logical mind. He is unquestionably an acquisition to this House. As to my honourable friend from Quebec, he has been here for such a long time, and we appreciate his contributions to the work of this Chamber so much, that I need not present him with special commendations except to reciprocate the very kind things he said of myself.

I have not very much to complain of in the presentation of the views of my honourable friend from Welland (Hon. Mr. Robertson). He is somewhat critical, but not so