

*The Address—Mr. G. M. Murray*

World events have great meaning to us in Canada today and especially to those in the northwestern part of this continent. We are on the airways to the Far East. The Pacific ocean is our natural trade outlet. As we all realize, the world is shrinking so far as travel is concerned. Today men come and go across the Pacific ocean at regular intervals in a matter of hours where formerly the journey took many weeks. I do not need to refer the house to the disturbance now going on in Asia, the war in Korea and the turbulent condition of affairs there. Then may I tell you that the northwestern part of British Columbia, the Yukon and Alaska are the first defences in the event of any invasion from Asia. At the western limits of Alaska one may look across the sound and see the territory of Siberia. Our fliers know the airfields which have been built up along the Siberian coast, on Sakhalin island, and on those other islands on the northern coasts of Pacific Asia. I do not need to lay emphasis upon the critical times in which we live, nor do I need to refer to the situation in Europe where there is a smoldering fire. We have sent a brigade of soldiers to western Europe, and it is very interesting to know that at the head of that brigade is Brigadier Geoffrey Walsh, a most distinguished soldier, a native of St. Catharines, Ontario, a man who is peculiarly well acquainted with all the information I have been giving the house this afternoon about my riding. Brigadier Walsh was in charge of the Alaska highway, and was connected with the defences in the northwestern part of the country. He has travelled by jeep, by horseback or by foot over most of the area to which I am referring. He is a man who has had a most unusual experience. He was taken by the government of Canada from the Alaska highway, with his headquarters at Whitehorse, and sent to China. This was not long ago, but of course it was before Korea. I do not suppose there is any man in the Canadian army who is better versed with respect to the military situation in China than is Brigadier Walsh. It is a strange destiny that now sends him to Europe, there to head our Canadian military effort.

If we are going to defend this continent we cannot allow the northeastern part of British Columbia to be a vacuum. We cannot allow those great valleys to lie idle, those resources to lie undeveloped. In the world today, if there is one contribution we could make toward peace it would be to open up those valleys and settle them with people from England, Scotland and western Europe. I hope that when Brigadier Walsh is in Europe he and all his officers and men will constitute themselves as immigration officers

for Canada, telling people wherever they go about the opportunities and possibilities for settlement up in the northwestern part of this great Canada of ours.

Two or three speeches have been made recently that have been of considerable interest to me. One was that of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier) in which he referred to railways which were now under advisement and being constructed throughout Canada. He referred to the iron ore road up in Quebec, the new nickel extension at Lynn Lake in Manitoba, and the extension of the Canadian National to be established between Terrace, which is just west of my riding, and the new town of Kitimat on the Pacific coast, where shortly a population of 7,500 people will be employed in the new aluminum industry being developed at that point.

I was glad to hear the minister also make reference to the extension of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway which is being built by the government of British Columbia in my riding north from the town of Quesnel to Prince George. I am sorry he did not go further in his speech and say that he intended to encourage Premier Byron I. Johnson of British Columbia to build that railway right up to the Peace river country. Indeed he should go further than that and implement the studied recommendations of all the leading military men, both in Canada and the United States, that a railway should be extended from Prince George not only to the Peace river country, but right up through the Yukon to Alaska, so there may be adequate defence of this continent should the evil day ever draw nigh.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) made a most interesting speech the other night which, to some extent, filled me with gloom, as did also the speech this afternoon of the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker). I refer to that point in the minister's speech where he stated that the government of Canada proposed to buy 10 million pounds of butter between now and the end of this year. Knowing my district as I do and knowing Saskatchewan as I do, I feel the people of Canada should not be buying on the world market at this time 10 million pounds of butter, but rather they should be offering a surplus of butter to the markets of the world. More feed will be wasted on the plains of Saskatchewan this winter than would make 10 million pounds of butter.

You cannot blame the government for that, either. I say we need more people in this country. We need settlers, people who will help develop the dairy industry. There is a