

The Address—Mr. Vincent

Perhaps I should not dwell too long on congratulations. Our best wishes accompany all those who have accepted a new office either as deputy speaker of the house, chairman of committees, members of the cabinet, parliamentary secretaries. I will just mention two of them. First, the hon. member for Pontiac-Temiscamingue (Mr. Martineau) who, as Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, has assumed the duties previously carried out by my predecessor for Nicolet-Yamaska. And second, the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot (Mr. Ricard), a native of my county of Nicolet-Yamaska, who is doing such good work as parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister and government whip.

I hope that the new members who, like myself, sit in this house for the first time, will retain their initial enthusiasm and obtain every success in the issues they shall uphold. (Text):

As I have just said in French I extend congratulations to the new hon. members and, indeed, to all hon. members who were elected on June 18. I hope to have the opportunity of meeting each of them during the session. Canada is a large country, but although we live far away from each other and do not have the same language and religion we do share the same faith in the greatness of Canada.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to speak about my electoral district of Nicolet-Yamaska. The county and town of Nicolet and the Nicolet river are named after the explorer and companion of Champlain, Jean Nicolet. The name of Yamaska county comes from an Indian word, Ouamaska or Hiamaska, which means: "The place with grass under water". Those who have the advantage of visiting this area in the heart of Quebec will find 45,192 inhabitants who live on the south bank of the St. Lawrence river, in the finest countryside of the province. This population lives principally on agriculture. We also have industries scattered across the county and they are a source of pride to us; and we foresee considerable development in the future. We can observe a deep attachment to the finest French-Canadian traditions among the people. Their generosity makes for unity in sharing the simple joys as well as the worst trials of life.

In my county, we also find institutions of learning of which we are proud. How many men and women have received the higher education that our institutions can provide: the seminary of Nicolet with its secondary and college education, our school of agriculture,

[Mr. Vincent.]

our colleges and our schools directed by priests, nuns and laymen.

Since 1957, that is since the coming into power of this government, we are proud to be able to say that the county has benefited from legislation and measures adopted. It suffices to mention that the budget earmarked by this government for agriculture has almost doubled from 1957 to 1961, compared with 1953 to 1957. During the latter period, \$363 million were spent on agriculture in Canada and from 1957 to 1961 we spent \$706 million.

Mr. Speaker, the county of Nicolet-Yamaska relies considerably on income from dairy farming. This government has voted in measures directed at helping this industry. Here are some of these measures:

A.—The subsidized price of butter was raised from 58 to 64 cents. If we bear in mind that the yearly butter production averages between 360 to 365 million pounds, we find that our farmers get from \$21 to \$22 million of extra money per year.

B.—The subsidized price of cheese is 32½ cents per pound. For us in Quebec, this figure which last year was 31½ cents, was brought up to 32½ cents a pound in Montreal and represents a very considerable gain for our farmers.

C.—Subsidy of 25 cents per hundred pounds of milk granted to those who supply processing plants. Since the 1st of May 1959, this has contributed toward raising producers' income by about \$12 million per year.

D.—Early this year, the government voted a subsidy of 12 cents per pound on butter, in order to allow consumers to pay less for butter and producers to receive the same price. This measure will cost the government, for this year alone, from \$40 to \$42 million.

Before the government granted this subsidy, consumption of butter fell off badly. Last year consumption was 290 million pounds; this year, consumption is expected to reach approximately 330 to 340 million pounds, an increase of about 20 per cent. Farmers are happy about this increase. It is important for the dairy industry that the government carry on in this direction. In addition, I believe that governments, agricultural associations, and farmers ought all to unite in intensifying promotion of our dairy products, so that the increasing consumer market for these products may be maintained to the advantage of our farming industry.

Mr. Speaker, another act adopted by this government which greatly encourages the establishment of economically productive