

The Address—Mr. Harrison

wan members. My good colleague the hon. member for Maple Creek (Mr. Studer) told you a rather sad story with regard to his part of the country. He said quite rightly that he did not know of any good reason why he should stay there. But he is an example of the kind of stock from which these people come. I just wish to correlate this incident with something I noticed in the discussion of the estimates, and this is what I am trying to get at. There was some discussion about the cost of experimental farms. Speaking to you for people who have had some benefit from them, I want to say that the expenditures on those farms have contributed more to this country than possibly any other expenditure that ever was made. That is what the hon. member for Maple Creek was getting at when he said that they were going to stay there, regardless. Those experimental stations have developed techniques that are from day to day improving and are enabling us to raise crops, by various methods other than those we have usually used, on land that we had previously found to be unproductive. I do not blame the hon. member for staying where he is. I know that these experimental farms will find the answer to productivity in that part of the country in any year. The farmers there have produced in many years, even with present methods.

However, it is not a doleful story that we hear all over Saskatchewan. I happen to have the honour to represent the riding of Meadow Lake, which has always produced. There are parts to the south of it that are sometimes hit by drought also. But there is no more fertile land in the whole Dominion of Canada than that around Meadow Lake itself. Just to give you an idea of what is produced there, I should like to give a few figures. In 1943 just out of the town of Meadow Lake itself we shipped 100 cars of northern lake fish, 512 cars of livestock, 900 cars of grain, 120,000 railroad ties, 10 million feet of lumber and 100,000 pounds of wild blueberries. The fish and the lumber are no longer turned out of Meadow Lake owing in most part to the socialist policies of the government we have in Saskatchewan. Grain production, however, has greatly increased. In 1948 1,500,000 bushels were delivered to the elevators in the town of Meadow Lake. This year, with crops ranging as high as 138 bushels of oats to the acre and 78 bushels of wheat to the acre, there will be delivered to those elevators in the neighbourhood of 3 million bushels of grain. I do not believe there is on the whole North American continent another delivery point of that size. Last year there was delivered to the town of Meadow Lake \$1,500,000 worth of vari-

ous hay seeds, mostly alfalfa. I should like to point out to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) that these mostly go over the border and provide much-needed United States dollars. Our uranium deposits as they are developed in the north will naturally contribute also toward that end.

For some time Meadow Lake has been represented in the house severally by Mrs. Nielsen, who represented North Battleford, and Mr. Townley-Smith, who was a member of the C.C.F. party. We take our politics fairly seriously in that constituency, but not too seriously. During the campaign just finished I was on good terms with the C.C.F. candidate. We were personal friends and very likely will always continue to be. During the election campaign the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) was in my riding.

Mr. Graydon: I am afraid I elected you.

Mr. Harrison: Thank you. I might say that many of his compatriots of good substance found it fitting to support either me or the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent)—I would not know which for sure.

There is one crying need in the riding which I represent and which I place on the highest priority. Some years ago, just when the drought was settling in the west, an attempt was made to grade a piece of railroad from St. Walburg through to Beaver Crossing, which is a distance of some ninety miles. At that time there was not a great deal of agricultural land broken up in that area, and now there is and that is where this alfalfa and all of this grain is being produced. The grade is in but some of it has deteriorated in the meantime. We had not only the depression of the thirties, but the ensuing war conditions and so on, when people realized that they could not have this railroad completed at that time; but they do not see any particular objection to having it completed at this time. I can assure you that along parts of that line double the acreage is now under cultivation as compared with a year ago, and that breaking is going ahead quite rapidly. There is also a short strip that needs completion, which is known as the Heinsburg gap between Heinsburg and St. Walburg. I trust that the minister will take note of these and see if he can give us some action on the railroads mentioned.

May I refer to another priority? We have a good deal of fishing in my constituency and it is centred at a place that is known as Buffalo Narrows, which is the centre of the great waterways running to the north. It has been fished pretty well most of the year. Our experience in the west has been—and I think that is true of everywhere else—that you cannot continually reap a crop without