

The Address—Mrs. Shipley

Fortunately experiences such as this do not stop prospectors. They are a special breed of Canadian. I have often tried to describe them without success. Westerners are very proud of their forebears, the pioneers. We of the mining areas of Canada are no less proud of our pioneers, the prospectors.

What makes a prospector may be difficult to define, but what the prospectors have done for Canada is a much different matter. By their very doggedness, or maybe their dreams of finding the pot of gold, they have opened the door to two of Canada's greatest assets, namely our mines and our oil fields. In 1955 Canada's mineral production soared to the record-breaking figure of \$1,700 million. This unprecedented expansion is a tremendous help in balancing our international trade and provides employment for thousands of persons, not only in the actual production of minerals but in the factories all over Canada that manufacture the necessary equipment and supplies.

Just a few years ago you would have been laughed at if you had predicted that Canada's production of metals would reach the figure of \$1,700 million in one year, but today it is generally accepted that this is only the beginning of the development of our mineral resources. In proof of this contention I would point out that in 1955 the groundwork was laid to bring more and more mines into production.

As Canadians we are pleased and proud of this great development, but how many of us give a thought to how it came about? The Department of Mines and Technical Surveys provides an excellent service that is most helpful, but it still takes the old-fashioned slugging, prospecting and diamond drilling, to find the mines. Of all the completely new mines brought into profitable production during the past ten years, almost 50 per cent are attributed to ordinary prospecting. You can trace the development of most of the mines in Canada right back to the men and women of the Cobalt, the Porcupine and the Kirkland-Larder camps. You will find them in there, if you care to look, either as the prospectors, the management or those providing the initial risk capital. Sometimes they are all three.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that those of us who were left behind in these areas and are carrying on under somewhat difficult circumstances, may be forgiven for expecting co-operation in facing our problems and for being so proud of what our pioneers have done for Canada.

It is not only the mining output that has gone ahead by leaps and bounds during the

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last year. The economic review shows the gross national product to be up by 10 per cent, that our export trade has increased, and that our unemployment has receded. In almost every field there are improvements; better still, all indications in economic activity for 1956 point upward.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Laflamme), I have the honour to move:

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, C.H., Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both houses of parliament.

(Translation):

Mr. Ovide Laflamme (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I fully realize that, in inviting me to second the motion for an address in reply to the speech from the throne, the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) wished to show his consideration for the constituency I have the honour of representing in this house. On behalf of all my electors and in my own name, I thank him most sincerely.

It might have been better for me and for you if, before risking my first words, I had had the opportunity of familiarizing myself with the atmosphere of the house. However, I did not wish to miss the opportunity that had been offered me of publicly expressing my deep appreciation to my electors who thought that I could represent them worthily in the parliament of my country.

I recognize however, Mr. Speaker, that this confidence of my electors is an unequivocal tribute to the man who, for us and for the people throughout the country, is the undisputed leader of the Canadian nation, the right hon. the Prime Minister.

I do not want to delay any longer, Mr. Speaker, before offering you my humble tribute; I make myself the spokesman of all members of the house in congratulating you most sincerely on the admirable way in which you have unfailingly exercised your delicate duties. Even outside the house, I had already heard of your tact, fairness, firmness and wisdom.

May I heartily congratulate the new members who, like myself, sit in this house for the