

The Address—Mr. Ferrie

understand that in the United Kingdom such a fund has been set up and compensation has been paid. That is true of the United States also. In our country that has not been done. I am told that there is a certain amount of German property which has been confiscated and is now in the hands of the custodian of alien property. This property could be sold and the proceeds used to constitute a fund to pay these war claims. I respectfully submit that it might be appropriate for the government to look into the matter and decide, having regard to the time which has elapsed since the close of the war, whether the time has not come to take some steps to see that these claims are paid.

May I return to the Magdalen islands. I have the honour to represent the smallest constituency in Canada from the point of view of its population, but from the point of view of its needs it is far from being the smallest in Canada. During the election campaign I said to the electors whom I have the honour to represent here today that there was not a county in Canada for which the federal government could do more than for the Magdalen islands. There they are, out in the middle of the gulf of St. Lawrence. The shifting sands fill in their harbours all the time. They need a lot of dredging; they need many public works; and, as the ministers have already begun to realize, I shall be visiting their offices often to obtain for my electors the help that they need from the federal government, and I am sure the federal government will give it.

Mr. G. M. Ferrie (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, first, I must congratulate you on attaining the position you now occupy in this house, which represents the most wonderful country in the world. I also wish to thank the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) for the help he has given in obtaining a majority of Liberals in this house. His trip was most helpful to the western members. The fine simple manner in which he and his wife spoke endeared them both to the people in a way never to be forgotten. He and his most gracious wife were kindness itself and we hope that they both will be spared to live to show the people of this country, and the world, that that which means the most to the country and to civilization is the home and all that surrounds it. I also want to thank him on behalf of my constituency of Mackenzie for his great contribution to peace and good will toward men.

May I join with those who have previously spoken to extend my sincere congratulations to the mover (Mr. Boisvert) and the seconder (Mr. Laing) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I also wish to add my congratulations to the seconder, whose

eloquence and knowledge of the English language should surely, in the future, serve him in good stead, to the great advantage of this house and the country at large.

I congratulate the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) on his address and the kind remarks he made regarding our leader, and I hope he will go out of his way to render the service to the country that His Majesty's loyal opposition is supposed to.

I was very much surprised—it may be my lack of knowledge—but to see all the Conservatives on my left voting with the C.C.F. on the amendment to the speech from the throne is beyond my comprehension.

I wish to congratulate the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) on his speech. I cannot say I am glad he is here, because he beat one of my best friends, and why the people of his constituency would vote for him—a city man and school teacher against a farmer, a cattleman, and a director of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities—is beyond my comprehension. Mr. Noble knew all their troubles, and was well able to put them before any assembly. That outstanding man, Duff Noble, is also a real Liberal and believes in free enterprise, and if there is a body of farmers in western Canada who should believe in free enterprise it is those men of Rosetown-Biggan who live in a wheat factory.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the hon. members on my left who, ever since the house opened, have made speeches prophesying doom. The hon. member from Calgary West (Mr. Smith) is the only one on my left who has faith in the ability of our people and in their courage to conquer anything which befalls them.

The hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green) said that this session would go down in the history of Canada as a constitutional session, but I think it will go down in history as a whining session. The members of the C.C.F. party have whined and wailed all through the election. They should be ashamed of the record of their colleagues in Saskatchewan, who during their entire regime of five years have not put on the statute books of that province one piece of legislation of which they can be proud.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply (Mr. Winters) on his housing scheme. But if he increases the number of houses to be built to 15,000 or 25,000 to satisfy the people in the cities, what will our farming population do for material? This year, in most of my constituency, we could not get one bag of Canadian cement under any circumstances. The only cement the farmer could get was United States