

hockey, and the Kootenays have produced several champion hockey players.

Trail itself is the home of one of the largest, if not the largest, non-ferrous smelter in the world, and its wealth of experience and knowledge in metallurgy has contributed much to the scientific community. Cominco has also contributed much to the financial wealth of the riding and Canada, while its workers have donated time and energy in many different ways for the betterment of various communities.

In recent history we have been honoured by the presence in the riding of two prime ministers, and the man who should have been the third prime minister. I refer first to the visit in 1958 by the then prime minister, the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker).

On that occasion I had the privilege of chairing a large political rally addressed by the right hon. member. I recall it as though it were yesterday. The prime minister was well into his speech when he was interrupted by four or five unfortunate women, referred to as Freedomites, who had stripped naked to protest I know not what. The right hon. member for Prince Albert rose to the occasion and said: "I have seen more than that back in the homestead in Saskatchewan", and continued his address.

In 1968 we were honoured by the visit to Castlegar by the present Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). More recently, during the last election campaign we were again honoured by the visit of the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), who visited Nelson and contributed significantly to my election.

While nearly all the peoples of Kootenay West have contributed much to the social, economic and historical betterment of the riding, there are a few whom I should like to single out at this time. I am sure there is not a veteran member of this House who does not remember the "Squire of the Kootenays". I refer, of course, to the member of parliament who sat in this House from 1945 to 1968, the late Bert Herridge.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brisco: He was always a gentleman, always concerned for and about his constituents, and always respected by people of every political persuasion. Mr. Herridge contributed much to the proceedings and debates in this House, with logic, persuasion and humour. Mr. Herridge served during the first World War in the 54th Kootenay Battalion and was wounded in action. One evening when the troops were to stand down, a young lieutenant, towering over the enlisted ranks, instructed Mr. Herridge and his fellow soldiers to dig some pits for their own protection. For ever after, as Mr. Herridge once complained in the House, the lieutenant was always a step up the ladder above him.

He was, of course, referring to another native son of Kootenay West who also will be remembered by the veteran members of this House—a man who was born in Kaslo, who served his country, along with many others from Kootenay West, with distinction during World War I with the 54th Kootenay Battalion. I refer to the Hon. Howard Green, Privy Councillor and Queen's Counsel.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brisco: Mr. Green was a member of parliament from 1935 to 1962 and culminated a long and distinguished

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political career as secretary of state for external affairs.

I should like also to mention the name of the last Conservative from Kootenay West to represent that riding. Mr. Billy Esling served the riding faithfully and well for 20 continuous years from 1925 to 1945.

The last member of parliament to represent Kootenay West was Mr. Randolph Harding. Perhaps few people realize that Mr. Harding, upon his election to parliament, had already served as an MLA in the British Columbia legislature for 23 years. Until his defeat in the last election, he had a record of nearly 30 years in public service, an indication of his dedication. He was especially concerned with matters pertaining to the environment and was very knowledgeable on this vital subject.

● (2010)

Finally, in describing Kootenay West, I wish to quote from the Parliamentary Guide of 1973. The final sentence on page 368 in the preamble to the description of ridings says:

So the two Kootenays were not counted as existing for political purposes.

Surely the Prime Minister himself must have written that sentence, for it so perfectly describes the long standing attitude of the government towards Kootenay West and its people. It is a history of tax whom you can for what you can, but give as little as you can in return.

I now wish to make passing reference to the Speech from the Throne, what it says, and what it fails to say. On occasions too numerous to mention the Leader of the Official Opposition has taken the government to task for its well demonstrated and documented inability to reduce inflation. He has reasoned, implored and debated, and challenged the government to take action. In this House, on November 20, 1967, the Leader of the Opposition said:

After rereading the minister's budget speeches in the last couple of years, in the spring of 1966 and in December, 1966, as well in the Spring of this year, I have to say that the government has been far too complacent about the dangers of inflation. The government has known for some time that an inflationary situation was developing. In fact, the minister himself referred as long ago as the spring of 1966 to the need for restraints.

Again on the same day the Leader of the Opposition quoted the Liberal Premier of Saskatchewan, who had said in reference to inflation: "Our own party as the government must accept responsibility for the primary blame." Now, some nine years later, a period longer than it took the allies to wrestle the Nazis to the ground, I sit in this House and listen to an exchange between the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister wherein the Prime Minister disdainfully declares he is still about to wrestle inflation to the ground.

Surely the Prime Minister and his government are suffering from the affliction of having been too long in office. It is usually found in the aged; We call it muscular atrophy. I state unequivocally that this government has not developed or declared a sound program to combat inflation but, rather, by continued increases in spending has failed to set an example for Canadians to follow.

If the government is not prepared to listen to the opposition, perhaps it will gear itself to listening to that source of the voice of the people outside parliament. I refer to the editorial pages of the nation's newspapers. Surely the government has the capacity to read and digest the contents of the editorial pages. Surely the government must