

*The Address—Mr. Bourbonnais*

news which appeared in yesterday's newspapers. In all fairness to the people I represent, I must say that the hon. Mr. Beaudoin was not born, brought up or educated in Vaudreuil-Soulanges. My county has elected such well-known politicians as Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Senator Boyer and Senator Wilson. I am very proud to say that these members were amongst the best of the Liberals who represented Vaudreuil-Soulanges almost exclusively since confederation.

Vaudreuil-Soulanges is typical of the province of Quebec. It is situated at the doorstep of Montreal, bordered by the province of Ontario on the west, on the north by the Ottawa river and on the south by the St. Lawrence river. It is crisscrossed by our two major railroads, the Canadian National railways and the Canadian Pacific railway. It is also the fork of the Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto highways. It is typical of the whole province of Quebec, being populated by approximately one-third of English speaking Canadians and two-thirds of French speaking Canadians and the best of relations are maintained between the two groups.

It is also typical of the province of Quebec because it reacts in the same way as the majority of Quebec. Our main occupation is farming and dairying. A great number of our people earn their living as tradesmen. They have to commute to Montreal from the suburbs to earn their living. A good many of them are office workers. We have few industries inside the county to help our people to earn their living. The Soulanges canal is our most beautiful landmark and one of our major industries, it will cease its operations when the St. Lawrence seaway is open to navigation next summer. The men working on the canal will eventually be laid off, thus increasing the number of those unemployed which is quite impressive as of now. I have confidence in the future; I have confidence that the future will brighten for us because the Conservatives are in power now.

Here, Mr. Speaker, I want to refer back to history. The Soulanges canal was built some 65 years ago by a Conservative government and it brought to my county work and progress. The decision to close it was taken under a Liberal administration and it brought sorrows and worries to very many people. Now that the Conservatives are back in power we have confidence in the future and my election is a proof of the confidence of the people in the Conservative party.

Another question that I have very much at heart is the development of our municipalities in Vaudreuil-Soulanges, in the province of Quebec as well as in the whole

[Mr. Bourbonnais.]

of Canada. I refer to development of our municipalities without breaking the bank account of all our proprietors. I must say that municipal affairs are under provincial jurisdiction, and for that matter they are well taken care of by our provincial government. But in Quebec after 40 years of Liberal administration the actual government of Quebec had to build everything. It had to build new schools at the rate of one a day. It is still doing so and it can hardly keep up with the need. It had to build hospitals by the dozens. It had to spend billions for roads and bridges. It had to take countless measures to help the poor farmers of our province who were left penniless after the depression. It had to spend all kinds of money to help them live. It had to bring the province of Quebec to the level of the other provinces of Canada. For that reason I shall always have admiration and great respect for the premier of the province of Quebec, regardless of all criticism against him from whatever source it may come.

To come back to the subject of our municipalities I want to mention the state of our small towns and villages that seem to belong to the last century more than to this atomic age. Most of them need water systems, sewerage systems, roads, firefighting equipment, playgrounds and so on but they cannot undertake any project of that kind because of the high cost due in part to the high rate of interest charged on loans and the low price paid for their municipal bonds. It so happens that when a municipal corporation has paid up a debt for a project it has paid approximately twice the amount of the original cost. It is very discouraging for the taxpayers.

Since the federal government has found a way to finance construction of private homes, could it not find a way in which to help finance at a fraction of the current interest rate all municipal corporation public projects? I am sure if such a scheme could be worked out a great number of municipal projects now sleeping in as many city halls would be undertaken and started fairly soon. It would also give work to very many as well as activate slowed-down industries.

Before concluding, Mr. Speaker, I should like to express my thanks to the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) for so kindly having lent his personality during the last campaign; also to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming), the Solicitor General (Mr. Balcer) and the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hees) for their visit to my county which meant victory for me. May I add my thanks also to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) for some wise words as reported