

*The Address—Mr. Decore*

(Mr. Mayhew), and we in Alberta are certainly proud of our Hon. James A. MacKinnon.

Those who know something about our province will certainly agree with me that Alberta is highly developed in agriculture and richly endowed with natural resources. It is sometimes referred to as a province of vast plains and towering mountains, as well as a province in which the politics are of a queer type which no one is able to understand. I was informed some time ago by Professor Irving of Toronto university that he is writing a book on social credit. Should this learned professor succeed in throwing at least some light on what social credit stands for and what it means, he would be doing a great service not only to the people of Alberta but also to the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low) and his nine followers in this house.

I did not intend in this maiden speech of mine to refer to any political group. However, I was amused when, in the course of this debate, the hon. member for Peace River took to task the *Montreal Star* and the *Lethbridge Herald* when these two papers referred to the party that he is leading in this house as a splinter party. At page 41 of *Hansard* of September 19 he is reported as having made this statement:

What the Liberals did to the Conservative and the C.C.F. parties in the election of last June, and what they did not do to the Social Credit party, led me to believe at the time these articles appeared that the expression "splinter parties" simply could not refer to us.

I am not going to argue the point with reference to "splinter parties" except to say that with regard to the Alberta Social Credit party I think the expression is most appropriate. But in view of the statement made by the hon. member for Peace River, I think hon. members of this house should be given some information, based on facts and figures, as to what actually happened in Alberta on June 27 last.

In the last parliament there were two Conservative representatives from Alberta in this house. There are two in this parliament, the hon. member for Calgary East (Mr. Harkness) and the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Smith). They command a high respect in Alberta, and I only wish that they were on our side. However, we can conclude that the Conservative party were able to hold their own. The C.C.F. party did not have any representation from Alberta in this house in the last parliament, and they have none today. So we can conclude that this group in Alberta was also able to hold its own. What about the Social Credit party? There were two Liberal members from Alberta in this house in the last parliament. There are five of us

[Mr. Decore.]

here today. The increase has been made entirely at the expense of the Social Credit party. But what is more significant is the fact that the Liberal popular vote in that province was approximately 117,000 as compared with 131,000 for the Social Credit candidates. How is it that the Liberals have only five members from Alberta, whereas the Social Credit party have twice as many? The illustration I want to bring out now is an example of what happened in many constituencies. For instance, in the Peace River constituency the hon. member from that area received in 1945 a majority of over 3,200 votes.

**Mr. Low:** How many votes?

**Mr. Decore:** I do not know how many votes, but the majority is over 3,200 votes.

**Mr. Low:** Give the number of votes.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Decore:** At this election on June 27 he received slightly over 300 of a majority.

We have been accused of making wild promises, but that is not so. We relied entirely on the policy of our party and the character and integrity of our leader.

**An hon. Member:** You did not swamp the province.

**Mr. Decore:** No, and we did not make promises to pay a \$25 a month dividend.

The Vegreville federal constituency, adjoining the constituency of Edmonton West, contains in it the famous Redwater oil fields.

**Mr. Low:** The Liberals got that, did they not?

**Mr. Decore:** The Social Crediters are trying to take credit for it, I understand. This oil field is not only the largest one in Alberta; it is the largest in Canada. If we compare it with the Leduc field which is another major field in the Edmonton area, and the Turner valley field, we find that the Redwater field has recoverable reserves equal to the combined reserves of those other two fields to which I have referred. Recently the provincial government received as high as well over \$3 million in cash for one section, and will in addition receive royalties from daily production which will become far more valuable than the cash bonus which they have already received.

A few days ago I had occasion to speak to Dr. Hume, who is the director of the mines branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, and this is what he had to say:

The rock formation from which oil has been taken out in the Redwater area is reported to be a reef similar to a reef found in the Leduc field and the Golden Spike. The presence of reefs in Alberta, in the Edmonton area, is very significant, in the