

*The Address—Mr. Schneider*

Hespeler also use this airport, and we are grateful for the government assistance which made this airport possible.

A river conservation and flood control program is proceeding in the valley of the Grand river. A small control dam has been built in the Luther marsh and a large dam has been built above the town of Fergus. Preliminary surveys and tests have been made for an additional conservation dam on the Conestogo river in Waterloo North at Glenallan. This will complete this phase of the Grand river plan. We note that the government proposes to place assistance for projects of this kind on a more permanent basis.

Our people in Waterloo North have struck a happy balance between agriculture and industry. A tour through the riding with its well cultivated rolling farm lands and the good appearance of its large barns and neatly kept homes gives evidence of the fertility of the soil, the steady-going industry and thrift of the farmers, and the care and good management by their ladies. Two large meat packing houses and several smaller plants provide a good domestic and export market for the large production of livestock. Mixed farming is the rule, and we never have a general crop failure. Manufacturing is highly diversified in the cities of Kitchener and Waterloo and the town of Elmira. Kitchener has 158 industries employing 16,000 people and producing rubber goods, leather, food products, furniture, shoes, felt, textiles, twine and machinery to the value of \$138½ million in 1951. Waterloo is recognized as a great insurance and manufacturing centre, and Elmira has taken a leading place in the production of clothing, machinery and chemicals.

Our people engaged in agriculture take this opportunity to express their thanks to the Department of Agriculture under the leadership of Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner and to his capable and hard-working staff. When the hoof-and-mouth epidemic struck and all export trade was stopped by embargoes a very serious situation arose in the problem of the disposal of the large surplus of meats. The placing of floor prices under livestock products definitely saved that industry from certain ruin. The total cost of the foot-and-mouth epidemic to the country has been unofficially estimated at \$30 million. Without the floor prices and the government support buying, livestock prices could have dropped to 15 cents or even 10 cents instead of holding at 25 cents and 26 cents. This could have resulted in a loss of up to \$200 million to the producers. After observing the prolonged difficulties of other countries with

foot-and-mouth disease, in some cases for four or five years, we are indeed fortunate in having it cleaned up so quickly.

The interests of the people of Waterloo North are not confined entirely to trade and commerce. For the past twenty years the city of Waterloo has held an annual band festival which has steadily developed in size and popularity under the leadership of Professor Charles F. Thiele, Waterloo bandmaster, recently retired. This June we had sixty-nine bands in attendance from all parts of Canada. The audience varies from twenty to twenty-five thousand each year. This year three additional musical productions were presented in the beautiful new memorial auditorium in Kitchener. The Salvation Army presented a mass band concert by nineteen bands to a full house. An audience of 6,000 attended a mass male choir concert by 500 singers in nineteen choirs from Canada and the United States. The interest of the youth of Kitchener was demonstrated last week when a small club in the Y.M.C.A. organized and produced a concert presenting the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and three world-famed artists to an audience of 7,000 people.

I wish to express my thanks to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier) for the public address system installed in this chamber during the summer recess. As a backbencher, seated in a corner where it has been exceptionally hard to hear, my deskmate and I have been very discouraged at times. It was a surprising but common occurrence to have to learn from *Hansard* of an important statement made in the house while we were present. We are very grateful and hope the public address system is a success in every way. As a new and inexperienced member, may I be permitted to express the hope that this system may never be called upon to transmit anything but constructive and helpful speech. With the reduced hours announced by the special committee on house procedure we should, as members, make every effort to expedite the work of the house by avoiding unnecessary wear and tear on this equipment.

In the speech from the throne we are reminded that there is a continuing international tension, but because of the increasing strength of the forces of freedom in Europe there are signs of lessening of the danger of an outbreak of war on a global scale. This optimistic outlook is very good, but I am sure most Canadians are in agreement with the policy of the government in proposing legislation providing for continuation of the Emergency Powers Act. I believe