

be extended, privatization of hemorrhaging crown corporations, and the excellent non-partisan appointments of competent people such as Stephen Lewis, Ian Deans, Dennis McDermott, Ambassador Francis and—

Senator Steuart: I don't believe it! Even you don't believe that!

Senator Barootes: —others to important posts.

Senator MacEachen: What about McDermott?

Senator Barootes: I knew you would be pleased.

More has already been accomplished and legislated by this Parliament in two years than in the four-year lifetime of almost any previous Parliament.

Senator Steuart: Remember who appointed Duff? That wasn't a man appointed by Trudeau? What about that one?

Senator Barootes: Honourable senators, let me turn for a few minutes to Saskatchewan, where we face a provincial election on October 20.

Senator MacEachen: No politics in the Senate.

Senator Barootes: I know you will do very well with your party, senator.

Senator MacEachen: That's what everybody has been telling me since I came.

Senator Barootes: Our major industry, agriculture, has suffered badly for three years. If these fall rains would cease, and if we had a fine Indian summer free of frost, we could harvest a record crop with pretty high grades.

Senator Steuart: And no prices!

Senator Barootes: Such a crop in prior years would have meant unprecedented prosperity.

Senator Steuart: If we had Liberals in, they would get a very good price.

Senator Barootes: But very low prices, high input costs, poor export markets ravaged by the American-European trade wars—and plagued once again by strikes and lockouts at the Lakehead—will make for—

Senator Steuart: Why don't you end it, then?

Senator Barootes: —very poor cash receipts. Governments will have to continue to help.

Some other export commodities are also down: Linked to grain surpluses, our potash sales are down in volume and in price, reduced to less than half the 1981 price. Uranium sales are buoyant, but price per pound was markedly reduced to one-third its peak. Oil activity and revenues have greatly sagged this year.

In spite of these vagaries of the international commodity markets, to which traders must adjust, our greatest strength lies in the hardiness and resilience of our people. They have endured cycles of depression before in the thirties and even since, and always have been hopeful. We remain strong in will and confident of the future. There are some good signs: record

[Senator Barootes.]

crops; plenty of moisture this year; good and rising prices in the red meat area, with plentiful cheap grain; growth in our mining industry with considerable gold play and a new goldmine coming into production. The government has helped sustain agriculture through its toughest years, has seen fit to protect home mortgages and to control utility and energy costs. They have encouraged private investment with legislation of a Saskatchewan Stock Savings Plan similar to the one in Quebec, and with venture capital funds. They have begun privatization of crown companies with the sale of several such companies. In the area from which my friend Senator Steuart comes, Prince Albert Pulp, a crown company which was a heavy loser, has been sold to Weyerhaeuser Canada and they are now building our first paper mill in Prince Albert. This has restored the confidence of the private sector industries.

I could go on—

Senator Steuart: You shouldn't.

Senator Barootes: We have a new Gainers plant in North Battleford; a huge expansion of Intercontinental Packers with 1,200 new jobs in Saskatoon; a recreational vehicle manufacturing plant employing 400 people in North Battleford—and this becomes a part of the largest recreational vehicle and sports sales outlet in all of Canada; a \$650 million heavy oil upgrader in Regina; a new pharmaceutical manufacturing plant in Wolesely, and many public projects in education, nursing, hospital and senior citizens institutions. Regina will get a new major convention centre and hotel. Industry and private investment have once again found their way into Saskatchewan.

For the past several years we have had the lowest unemployment figures in Canada, although for the past five months the economic boom in Ontario has placed us in second. This improvement in our general economy, coupled with the numerous commercial industrial and construction projects in my province, has given us record job creation and has even created a shortage of tradesmen in the construction industries.

The government's initiatives have therefore been rewarded. Premier Grant Devine's thrust has been to stabilize the agricultural industry and to diversify the other aspects of our economy. The agricultural sector is being stabilized by avoiding the cycles of drought through water and irrigation projects in cooperation with the federal government. The diversification is in the projects I have mentioned, as well as in technology; in fibre optics—of which Saskatchewan has the largest network in Canada in research and development; in mining, electrical and small manufacturing; in agricultural implements; in modernization of our steel and pipe plants; and in the recent announcement in Saskatoon of an electrical generator manufacturing plant by Hitachi-Marubeni of Japan, whose plan is to export these products throughout North America.

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The future, indeed, looks promising and the return of the same government will bring more projects and a more stable base to our economy.