

*The Address—Mr. Dumas*

its southernmost part, that is, in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Thus that wealth benefits Villeneuve county.

Agriculture gradually becomes a basic industry in that part of the Canadian shield. In the northwest area of Quebec and the northeast area of Ontario, for hundreds of miles the soil is covered with a thick layer of clay. In Chapleau county, on the northern border of the district of Villeneuve, the first farming establishments were founded only forty years ago. From Hearst in Ontario to Senneterre in Quebec, the rural parishes are always increasing in number.

*(Text):*

It is generally true to state, Mr. Speaker, that the search for gold and the resulting mining industry have attracted the attention of the other regions of our country to the marvellous riches of the Canadian shield. During the war, circumstances beyond our control, arising from the general state of the world's economy rather than from the Canadian economy, caused our gold industry to decline considerably and even threaten to disappear for a time. Happily, however, the Canadian government recognized the importance of the industry in our national development and instituted pioneer measures in the new regions, coming to the rescue with emergency assistance to the gold mining industry. After this beginning the government increased the efficiency and duration of its benefits, and it is owing to this measure that many mines in my constituency have been able to carry on their operations. It is owing to this measure that thousands of miners in my constituency have been able to continue to earn an honourable living, and many of our veterans to build up promising futures for themselves.

My constituents have been pleased to learn of the creation of a separate Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Is this not an assurance that the government of Canada will pay increasing attention to the mining problem, and will bring about improvements in the salutary measures it has instituted? I take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. member for Renfrew South (Mr. McCann) upon his appointment as head of this important department. He is already familiar with mining problems. I am sure that he will know how to present to the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. McCann)

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the difficulties of the mining industry, and that the latter will not fail to listen to his suggestions.

*(Translation):*

In the county of Villeneuve, the development of agriculture depends on the mining industry, whose financial contribution enables the settler to live through the difficult years when he has to work on virgin soil which will bear fruits only after years of unceasing labour. The settler finds in the mining centres a ready market for his garden produce. The mining enterprises purchase his lumber and provide work for him during the dull season. And so, gradually, the settlement lot becomes a prosperous farm, and the settler, a prosperous farmer. In turn he will help the mining centres to survive, and the mines may then disappear. They will have played their part in our economy. A stable population will remain and there will not be that sorry sight of deserted towns.

That clay belt of the Canadian shield which runs through northwest Quebec as well as through the northeastern constituencies of Ontario is eminently suited to production of fodder plants and consequently to stock farming, either for meat or dairy products. Before very long, a more rational distribution of our farming industry will bring about specialization in market-gardening and small-scale farming in the lowlands of the St. Lawrence valley, while our district will devote itself to large-scale farming and supply eastern Canada. I hope to see more and more model farms in order that their example may help to transform our farming industry. Our people will also welcome any steps taken by the government to increase the number of abattoirs, cold storage plants and centres for the grading of agricultural products.

Finally, so that the farming industry may fulfil expectations, let us hope that a program of drainage will be undertaken with the co-operation of both provincial and dominion governments in the whole pre-Cambrian clay belt, which lies at the height of land. In addition to improving arable land, it would help reforestation and development of large marshlands which are now absolutely useless.

This brings me to a brief discussion of forest management. In 1948, Bishop Labrie wrote:

"There will come a day when mines have yielded their last, but forests will keep on growing bigger and better trees if we take the trouble of caring for them and of managing them intelligently and with foresight."