

The Address—Mr. Smerchanski

seems to me this situation should not exist. On the English network of C.B.C., we hear nothing but voices with foreign accents. Does it mean that nobody in Canada is able to contribute to the corporation? Evidently, we should be able to express our opinion on that.

We could say the same thing about the Canada Council, the Canadian National, the National Arts Centre which is close by and which has cost \$45 million to date. One forty-fifth of that sum could have helped build cultural centres everywhere in the riding of Cochrane.

But what is going on? These corporations have been left alone, in their independence, but they have been spending our money. Then, maybe the time has come to have a look into this and change our way of thinking as concerns the administration and authority of these crown agencies.

A while ago, I referred to the Canadian National. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that the railway service in the Cochrane riding was better 50 years ago than it is today? I cannot exactly call this progress. Rather, it would seem that we are going backwards. The situation needs to be corrected and I hope that this government will keep all these considerations in mind when setting up the northern Ontario regional development program.

Mr. Speaker, we have always been left out in northern Ontario; my constituents feel that we are neglected. I am sure that this government, with our new leader and the new team, will take steps to improve the situation, so that prosperity may be enjoyed not only in the Cochrane electoral district but also all over northern Ontario.

● (4:10 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Mark Smerchanski (Provencher): I should like to add my congratulations to Mr. Speaker upon his recent elevation at the first session of this parliament to the high position of permanent speaker. I hope that the legislative assembly of the province of Manitoba will adopt a similar rule to the one adopted by this house, and will also elect a permanent speaker. I also wish to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the address in reply, the hon. member for Madawaska-Victoria (Mr. Corbin) and the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo (Mr. Marchand), both of whom gave an excellent account of themselves.

I have the pleasure of representing the constituency of Provencher and of bringing from

western Canada Liberal representation for that constituency. I wish to express my appreciation to the constituents in my riding for having placed their confidence in me and having selected me as their Liberal member of parliament. Of course I do not possess the powers of elocution or the eloquence of some other hon. members of this house, but as an engineer I shall try to do my best.

My constituency is 225 miles long and slightly over 75 miles wide. It covers a total area of some 17,000 square miles and has a population numbering 60,000. I can say truly that my constituency is a land of great variations. In its southern portion it has the lumber industry, the dairy industry, cattle raising and grain farming. Some of the largest poultry and turkey farms in Canada are to be found in its central part. In its northern part there is fishing, fur farming, trapping, mining, the pulp and paper industry, and one of the most modern atomic research plants at Pinawa, which is known as the Whiteshell nuclear research centre and is one of the world's first organic cooled heavy moderated reactors to probe the mysteries of the atom and harness its energy for peaceful uses.

We also have five hydroelectric power plants on the Winnipeg river which supply electricity to the city of Winnipeg. The major portion of the northern section of the constituency is covered by rock outcrops known as the pre-Cambrian shield. Hundreds of lakes and rivers are to be found there. They are ideal for sport, sailing, fishing, swimming, camping and canoeing. Also solitude can be found in the more remote areas of this constituency, at a very short distance from the busy vacation resorts.

I should like to take hon. members through a small part of the historical background of my constituency. The Red river which originates in North Dakota flows north into lake Winnipeg and forms the western boundary of my constituency. The Winnipeg river flows across the middle portion of my constituency and empties into lake Winnipeg. These two rivers are very symbolic in the western Canadian history and played a great part in the development of the west.

In 1812 the province of Manitoba was settled by the Selkirk settlers who came to York Factory in the Hudson bay, and then travelled in York boats to lake Winnipeg and up the Red river to establish the Red river settlement. In recent years I travelled this route by canoe and marvelled at the hardships encountered by these men and women who