

that an outlet to the Pacific coast from the Peace River country should be provided, but the government, because of a lack of courage and vision, have failed to do what the people demanded. Last September representatives of the chambers of commerce of Great Britain and Canada visited the Peace River country, and they were marvellously impressed with its possibilities, and passed resolutions demanding an outlet. They were amazed at its potential wealth and its possibilities for development. But nothing has been done to develop that rich empire; for it is an empire in itself. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that a fair estimate of the acreage of the Peace River country in northwestern Alberta and eastern British Columbia is put at 47,000,000 acres of fertile land? That is an empire in itself, the richest garden in the whole British Empire, not exceeded even by the 10,000,000 fertile acres of Egypt. It is as large in area as Scotland, Ireland and Wales combined. But when we spoke in this house of the wonderful possibilities of that country the Minister of Railways and his government failed to listen to us, and our demand for an outlet to the Pacific coast has been consistently refused. I regret to-day, as I regretted last year that the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific agreed to take over the railway lines in northern Alberta. I regret that the great spirit of the men who built the Canadian National railway and the Canadian Pacific railway seemed to have passed away. These roads were built originally for colonization purposes, to build up the country. To-day, Mr. Speaker, the prospects of the greatest port in Canada are being jeopardized because of a lukewarm attitude on the part of those who should know better. During twelve months of the last year 30,000 new settlers went into the Peace River country, where in 1911 there were only 2,000 people. To-day the Peace River country has a population of over 60,000. I am speaking of what I know, and I ask why these people should be denied an outlet to the legitimate port to which their products should go. What do we find in Canada to-day? Every Canadian regrets the serious situation that exists among the wheat farmers of western Canada, but we trust that the situation will improve, or otherwise inevitably the cities and the rest of the country will suffer. Last September I visited the Peace River country, which last year had wheat fields as large as twelve hundred acres producing forty and fifty bushels of wheat to the acre, and yet a producing country like that has been denied an outlet to the Pacific coast. I am not thinking simply of Prince Rupert.

I am thinking first and foremost of the whole people of Canada, because the development of the port of Prince Rupert is a matter of national concern, and in conclusion I say, Mr. Speaker, that it was the duty of the Minister of Trade and Commerce and of the government to which he belongs to see that an outlet from the Peace River country be built, an important Canadian port developed and a railway which cost millions be made productive to the people of Canada.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle): I regret, Mr. Speaker, that I did not hear the first part of the speech of my hon. friend from Skeena (Mr. Brady). He made, I am told, a kind reference to me. I do not know just what that reference was, but I am given to understand that he alluded to the radiance of my physiognomy. I admit that at the beginning of every session I do feel happy, and that is one of the reasons why I am standing up now to say the nice and agreeable things before I am perhaps forced to be disagreeable later on. First of all, let me thank my hon. friend. I am only sorry that the radiance which he found on my face has not penetrated his mind, because then he would not have felt as despondent as he appeared to be, in his speech.

The debate has been very interesting. The more I come to this house the younger I feel, and the more I sympathize with the young members, including my good neighbour here (Mr. Neill). Unfortunately I missed most of the speech of the mover of the address (Mr. Gray), but I read it this morning, and it struck me as one of the best speeches that have been made for many years in moving the address. While looking through the curtains before I entered the chamber I was struck by the resemblance of the hon. member to the late Sir Clifford Sifton, in profile, gesture, and something in his voice. May I be permitted, in justice to all, past and present, to say that if the hon. member for West Lambton (Mr. Gray) takes of the best which that statesman contributed to the policies of Canada, and leaves the rest aside, he will be a valuable addition to the membership of this house.

So far as my young friend from Laprairie-Napierville (Mr. Dupuis) is concerned, there was one point in his speech that I want to emphasize for the benefit especially of those members of the house who have not the advantage of understanding both languages. He expressed as his personal opinion—and may I give him now the advice that when a young member, and even the older members, express their personal opinions they are apt