

Wembley. We now mourn his untimely passing as the result of a most regrettable accident in California just recently. My friend Trelle and the soil and climate of the country of the mighty Peace, made a combination that has lifted Canadian prestige to a high level in the agricultural world.

Nature endowed the Peace River country not only with unsurpassed soil, sunshine and rainfall resources, but also abundant timber, fur-bearing animals and, doubtless, minerals of many varieties. But her greatest pride is her people. True pioneers with a vision of empire in their souls settled the country, as a result of the policy of the federal government in the days when Ottawa alone controlled the natural resources of the prairie provinces. They carved out homes and farms, towns and villages, through application of sheer determination and stubborn courage. And in spite of their hardships, their isolation, and the fact that their country and their pressing needs have been consistently ignored by the federal government, which alone must bear the responsibility for their settlement in the north country, the people of Peace River have maintained the true spirit and hospitality and friendliness of the pioneers; their cabin doors are never locked.

I said their country and its development have been consistently ignored down the years by Ottawa. The present Liberal government has since 1935 done nothing to remove the heavy transportation handicaps they have suffered since the first settlement in that section. Their most urgent need now is a rail outlet to the west, perhaps through Pine Pass, to link up with Prince George, British Columbia. Such a rail link would obviate the necessity of the long back-haul of three hundred miles to Edmonton.

Almost as urgent is a new and equitable schedule of freight rates; for in common with other parts of Alberta, the Peace River has been placed at the very peak of a most unfair and discriminating freight rate structure that throttles its development. Added to the natural disadvantage of its geographical position, a series of discriminating practices have grown up in the Canadian railway system which have the effect of favouring both central Canada and the coast province of British Columbia at the expense of the Peace River and Alberta generally. To these two grave problems, the sympathetic support of the government can bring satisfactory solution.

The Peace River cannot fulfil her destiny as a producer of an abundance of much-needed foodstuffs for the early alleviation of short world supply unless these needs, among others, are met. For the proper development of this

[Mr. Low.]

last great frontier where perhaps fifty thousand more people could settle in comfort and security, the rail outlet to the western seaboard and the revised freight structure are absolutely essential. Time will not permit me to enlarge on these matters now, but I have pledged myself to work unceasingly for them, and I am prepared to raise my voice on every possible occasion and to haunt the offices of those who have it in their power to do something about them, until the needs of my people are satisfied.

I wish here to thank the government for finally undertaking, jointly with the province of Alberta, to build the Grimshaw-Notikewin-Hay River Road. This will play a big part in the development of the north as well as in making available to the rest of Canada the vast mineral wealth of the northern territories. But the government need not have waited until they were facing an election to announce their participation in the project. Their sincerity would have been infinitely more impressive had they consented to join with Alberta on any one of the many occasions during the past eight years when that province attempted to interest Ottawa in undertaking to build the road.

I wish to identify myself with the expression of thanksgiving in the throne speech that tragic war has ceased and that final victory has come to the united nations. Surely it must be evident from the many miraculous events of the past six years that Almighty God has sustained our efforts, and that without His divine intervention civilization might have completely destroyed itself. It is no mere scientific accident in my opinion that the secret of the atomic bomb was discovered first by the Anglo-American people.

Mr. Speaker, my thanks go out also to the people of Canada whose magnificent war effort has aroused the admiration of the world. To the fighting men in all branches of the service, we owe a debt which I sincerely trust we shall acknowledge and pay, by adequate provision for their future happiness and security, no matter what that might cost us. My sincere sympathies go out to all those bereaved families whose sons, husbands, brothers or fathers will not return. So not to break faith with them who gave their lives that we might be free to choose our way of living, let us pledge ourselves not only to do our utmost to prevent a recurrence of tragic war, but also, what is more important and pressing, to get at and root out of our national life those things which are the real causes of war.

We whipped Germany completely in a military way. In fighting her we were fighting totalitarianism, which is centralization of power

maintained by force. But though the combined military might of the united nations did vanquish Germany, yet there is still grave danger that nazism—what we fought Germany for—may win. For while we have been busy fighting centralization of power maintained by force abroad, more than a vestige of the evil has crept in at our back door here at home. Its cunning subversive propaganda has found ready response in the hearts of many unsuspecting Canadians, among whom I fear we must class the Liberal government. I do not believe it has been through malevolence on their part, nor do I like to think it is through stupidity, but the fact remains that the government has been drifting into totalitarian centralization, and we now even hear much about maintaining it "by force."

Considerable space is given in the throne speech to what the government has done. Claims are made there to great progress for Canada during the war years under the leadership of the Liberal government. But splendid as Canada's war effort has been, in many ways the general situation in Canada and in the world is infinitely worse than it was in 1939.

I find widespread among the people of Canada to-day a feeling that centralization within our country as well as on a world scale is inevitable. This "inevitability" psychology has resulted from the persistent and subtle propaganda of the enemies of true democracy over the years. It planted its roots deep in the frustration of the hungry thirties and it has fed on the bitterness engendered among Canadians by that sense of futility. It has made such great inroads among our people during the war years that I feel we face a dangerous situation as a result of it. What has this Liberal party and its government done about it? It has fought valiantly against the spreading fire by throwing gasoline on the flames. It has blundered into the position actually of a tool in the hands of the enemies of democracy by adopting a policy of centralization of power, and by its actions of helping to establish firmly among Canadians the feeling of the inevitability of centralization. Social Crediters in and out of the house have repeatedly warned the government about its dangerous drift.

In the first place the Liberal government itself was a victim of the psychology of futility during the period of 1935-39. This the Prime Minister admitted in his answers to the thirty-three questions in *Maclean's* magazine last spring. When the war broke out they began seriously to flirt with the centralization idea as a result of which they called the dominion-provincial conference in January, 1941, to consider the Rowell-Sirois

report. When that conference failed, under the stress of wartime needs this government began a surreptitious attack on the provinces to force transfer of taxation powers from the provinces to the dominion. They called the attack "taxation transfer agreements", but actually the provinces were put into the position of having to accept the dominion's proposal, "or else". Many of us said at that time that we would bet our shirts there would be a serious effort made by Ottawa to render the so-called temporary arrangement a permanent one, for we recognized the centralization policy which the government was following. It was only too obvious that though the Prime Minister had given much evidence of favouring fundamental reform of the financial system he was not able to get into office a Minister of Finance to support him in his desires. Rather, each finance minister in his turn preferred to juggle taxation fields, as if that could possibly by itself make available more money with which the various governments could run their business. Surely it must have been obvious all these years that it is the same people who are taxed, whether by province or dominion alone or by both in their own spheres, and it must also have been obvious that there is a limit beyond which we cannot go in heaping tax burdens upon our people. However, in spite of all that has been said about it, we now behold another attempt by this government to arrogate to the dominion, taxation authorities which belong by right to the provinces. This is another step toward centralization of power, which if carried into effect, will topple and destroy the last remaining columns of true democracy. No wonder many people think centralization inevitable.

I need only mention such things as selective service, compulsory unemployment insurance, compulsory health insurance schemes, Dumbarton Oaks and Bretton Woods, to further impress upon the people of Canada additional evidences of the trend of this government's mental drift. And I say with all the gravity at my command that centralization is not inevitable. Centralization is the very antithesis of true democracy. There are better ways of solving our problems, ways that will preserve the individual freedom of Canadians. I come of English stock on my mother's side and of stubborn Scottish in my father's line. One of my direct ancestors was among those who dipped quills and signed with their own blood a document resisting the centralizing encroachments of King Charles I. Perhaps that explains why I am a reformer. And now every drop of the blood of my ancestors cries out in me to resist to the utmost extent of my strength