

The Address—Mr. Stitt (Selkirk)

fair fame of Manitoba before the world, someone else would have had the honour of seconding this motion.

I wonder if I might be permitted to say something about the great historic constituency of Selkirk. Selkirk, as hon. members all know, was the original portal to the northland, the portal of the voyageurs whereby they were able to traverse the northern part of the country into Hudson bay. The constituency of Selkirk at the present time might well be termed the portal of the great Canadian west. I believe that at the village of Marquette on the western borders of my constituency, you will find the very heart of Canada, for it is there that the Canadian Pacific Railway, that great transportation system, is bisected into two equal parts, one running to the east and the other to the west. If Selkirk enjoys this invaluable location from a geographical standpoint, it is also a constituency in which there are inhabitants to the number of around 45,000. It is an area which embraces the whole of lake Winnipeg. It is over 250 miles in extent and on the land portion over fifty miles in width. It might be interesting for members of the house to realize that it is in Selkirk that we find the original home of Manitoba No. 1 hard wheat, for it was, I believe, the Selkirk settlers who first grew No. 1 hard and exported it to the markets of the old land.

If Selkirk is the original home of No. 1 hard wheat, it is also the place where the finest butter in Canada is made at the present time. Hon. members may laugh and say that this is an exaggeration. Just a few months ago I had the satisfaction at Stonewall of presenting to a farmer's wife a gold medal for winning at the Royal Winter Fair for the last two successive years, the first prize for the best butter produced on a farm in Canada by a farmer's wife. Furthermore, the best butter in Canada was produced the year before last in the dairy at Teulon in the very heart of my constituency by a new Canadian named George Deorn. It is well for the house to recognize this fact; it is well to realize that in these days of depression, in these days when Canada is faced with such problems as it has never faced before, there are farmers' wives and gentlemen in the factories who make products the finest in the Dominion of Canada.

If my constituency is remarkable for the fact that it was the original home of No. 1

[Mr. J. H. Stitt.]

wheat and also for the fact that the best butter in Canada is produced there, it must also be remembered that the fisheries of lake Winnipeg are extensive, for lake Winnipeg is the home of the palatable whitefish and the luscious goldeye. May I direct the attention of the house to the fact that in the province of Manitoba in the year 1930 there was produced \$1,830,000 worth of fish, over \$1,000,000 of which came from the constituency which I have the honour to represent in this house.

In the first part of the speech from the throne His Excellency expressed gratification at being selected by His Majesty as his representative in this dominion. May I say, sir, that we also express our pleasure, and I should like to say on behalf of hon. members on both sides of the house representing the two great races in Canada how grateful and thankful we are for the coming of His Excellency to Canada. By his coming not only was there forged a further golden link of empire, but history was made because I believe that for the first time the representative of His Majesty was appointed on the recommendation of His Majesty's Canadian privy council.

It may be that upon such an occasion the imagination stirs and one is wont to express himself in verse. Not often has a poor maker of verses an opportunity to express the result of his effort in public. However, the day before His Excellency came to Canada I thought it a proper occasion to celebrate in verse not only the forging of this further link of empire but at the same time the realization of the autonomy of the Canadian people. In part I have written as follows:

There be men in this good land from England
and Ireland,
From Wales and from Scotland and lands
o'er the sea,
And some of us once broke a lance in a far
land,
With men now asleep who were led, sir,
by thee.
We hasten to greet thee with song when we
meet thee,
Let the iron gun boom and the silver band
blare,
In that golden desire for that greater empire
Which is ours and is God's in the life we
would share.

We meet at a time of universal economic depression. I believe it is fair to say, however, that the government which I have the honour to support has met the situation by wise policies prosecuted vigorously. Speaking this afternoon, it is not difficult for me to analyze the cause of the economic situation in Canada.