

*The Address—Mr. G. M. Murray*

vast area of land which is rich in natural wealth. Homes can be provided there for the homeless from Saskatchewan and elsewhere, and there will be work and wages for all who come provided they are of sound mind and body and come with a good heart as did the settlers of earlier days. Running through the middle of my riding from north to south there is a highway 850 miles long passing mostly through virgin country. By way of illustration, its length would be about equal to the distance between Ottawa and Halifax, Ottawa and Fredericton, Ottawa and Richmond, Virginia, or Ottawa and Chicago.

The population of Cariboo at the time of the last election was given as 31,000 people, that of a small city in Ontario, in an area larger than all the maritime provinces combined with part of Newfoundland thrown in. There were 13,000 voters in the last election—I suppose there will be more in the next—in the electoral district of Cariboo, an area larger than all of Ontario from Sault Ste. Marie eastward to the Ottawa river. This one electoral district embraces an area equal to all the New England states, equal to the area east of a line drawn between Philadelphia and Buffalo. It is larger than all of New York state with a good deal of Pennsylvania thrown in and all of the original New England states.

It is an area rich in all kinds of natural resources. I have given the list before of the natural resources of the district I represent that are profitably developed. First of all there is gold, which we began to produce in 1858. Each year since then the gold mining industry has been large and profitable, contributing to the wealth of the country. Today in addition to gold we have such things as tungsten, mercury, asbestos and other war minerals. We have coal in the riding at Hudson's Hope and other points equal to the coal resources of the Lackawanna valley of Pennsylvania. There are three small mines operating 100 miles from a railway. The coal is delivered by truck to the domestic market and its value as a heating agent is very much higher than any other coal we have in Canada. It ranks next to the hard coal of the Lackawanna valley.

The 850 miles of highway consists of the extension of the Cariboo highway by way of Pine pass, and then some 500 miles of the Alaska highway. We have between 400 and 500 sawmills, mostly in the neighbourhood of Prince George. They all ship their products to world markets via the Canadian National Railways. There is also a great farming area, including extensive cattle ranches in the south. Dairying is carried on

at places like Prince George, McBride, Dawson Creek and Kersley. Wheat growing in the Peace river area of the Cariboo electoral district takes place at Dawson Creek, the shipping point for the largest production in the British commonwealth. I think the record there was 5 million bushels in one year, and much of that grain was hauled 60, 80, 90 or 100 miles to get to the railhead under a truck tariff of 17 cents per bushel. Then it is hauled from the railhead to the head of the lakes or Vancouver at a very high freight rate. Therefore that part of the country is placed in a position where it needs equalization of freight rates and the extension of transportation services.

In addition there are natural gas wells which have been drilled on that side of the British Columbia-Alberta line. There is a sufficient reserve of natural gas to service a very large city. It is very likely that British Columbia will get an ample supply of natural gas from her own territory up in the Peace river country for the servicing of Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster, and other large centres. Then there is the recent discovery of oil at Fort St. John. There is a natural wealth in that district possibly unequalled in any similar area on the face of the earth, in which a population of a mere 30,000 people share.

Within the Cariboo electoral district there is hydroelectric power which has not been developed. Some 3 million horsepower is to be developed as the result of the St. Lawrence deep waterway project. On the Fraser river alone there is a potential of 6 million horsepower. That river commences around the base of Mount Robson and winds down through the territory of Cariboo to its mouth at New Westminster. Three million horse power is now being developed on the Nechako river within the electoral district of Cariboo by the Aluminum Company of Canada. There is another million horsepower on the Peace river, and no one knows how much more there is below Fort St. John and on toward the north. I doubt whether any survey has ever been made of the Nation river, the Parsnip river, the Fort Nelson river, the Liard river, the Muskwa river and others which rush down from the Rocky mountains to join the Mackenzie system and then on to the sea. Farther south the Quesnel and Blackwater rivers have been surveyed and are under review now for development. Therefore there is a vast reserve of power for the development of the natural resources I have mentioned within that one electoral district in the northeastern part of British Columbia.

[Mr. Murray (Cariboo).]