

Fredericton (Hon. Mrs. Fergusson) and I have covered the National Economic Development Board; we have both covered the Atlantic Development Board.

To these I will add, from my perusal of this recent A.P.E.C. Newsletter, first, the quotation from the Throne Speech, reading as follows:

New opportunities are opening up for fruitful negotiations to reduce the barriers to trade on a general, non-discriminatory basis.

Reference was then made to the intended expansion of the export trade promotion campaign of the Department of Trade and Commerce. And under the same heading was quoted the statement from the Speech, reading:

Its (the government's) commercial policy negotiations have the objective of opening additional markets to Canadian producers in fair exchange for opportunities for others to sell in Canada.

The Newsletter then commented as follows:

In the long run, a policy of freer trade is apt to benefit the Atlantic provinces because of the relative importance of export-oriented resource industries in the regional economy.

A.P.E.C.'s Newsletter quoted further proposed legislation as follows:

Far-reaching changes are taking place in manpower requirements in Canadian industries as a result of automation, other technological developments and world competitive pressures. A measure will be placed before you designed to assist employers, workers and their organizations in meeting the impact of industrial change.

The comment made here was that this might be intended to assist Canadian industry to adjust to current changes in world trade and other fields.

This Newsletter, in commenting on the establishment of a national power grid, suggested that this could mean "the earlier development of the hydro potential of such projects as Hamilton Falls in Labrador".

It was pointed out that the announced intention of the Government to implement some recommendations of the Royal Commission on Transportation is of more than passing interest to shippers in the Atlantic provinces. Favourable acceptance of this was quite definite and specific. It was related here, as all Maritimers are aware, that the Maritimes Transport Commission in its submission to the royal commission, in association with A.P.E.C., stressed the fact that

over the years the horizontal freight rates policy has not been in accord with the Maritime Freight Rates Act, thereby reducing the assistance that might otherwise be received by regional shippers. Consequently, I am sure that all A.P.E.C. members were happy to read in the Throne Speech that the application of certain recommendations in this field are intended, "to remove the need for general horizontal freight rate increases which have borne so heavily in the past upon certain areas and groups of producers."

The Throne Speech proposals with respect to agriculture were quoted in part, having to do with ensuring the availability of storage facilities for feed grain in eastern Canada and British Columbia.

No mention was made in the Newsletter of the announced intention to increase funds under the Farm Credit Act and to permit "greater flexibility in their use." I was rather surprised at this omission, in view of the large segment of our population that may be favourably affected. However, I realize that it is quite possible that the details since publicized were not available when this issue of the Newsletter was being drafted. Keeping within the rules, I hope, I shall not at this time go into details, other than to state briefly what is common knowledge and is pertinent to agriculture in the Atlantic provinces.

The increasing of available funds under the act comes as a matter of necessity in the light of past experience, and perhaps more notably because of the "flexibility" referred to in the use of these funds in the future. In addition to off-farm earnings to be recognized as income for purposes of borrowing under the act, the amendments will, to take one example, permit the farmer to develop non-agricultural enterprises on his farm—almost any type of enterprise that will make for more profitable use of his land resources.

I believe we can all see that such a broadening of the act will do much to assist the low income farmer—and, unfortunately, we have a large number of these in the Atlantic provinces—by bringing him into that area encompassed by the ARDA legislation. And may I say that to my mind the success of the ARDA program is a "must" if we are to retain our rural population with such diversified occupations as farming, fishing, lumbering, construction work, and so on. In many instances all four mentioned are pursued by one and the same person in an effort to secure a modest standard of living.

Under the heading "Industrial Development" the A.P.E.C. organ quoted that part of the Throne Speech dealing with the proposed intention of the Government to expand further the role of the Industrial