

*The Address—Mr. Seigny*

a new record of prosperity and that this boom will continue in 1963 and in the following years.

That prosperity is not merely due to chance. On the contrary, it is the direct result of the constructive action taken by the Conservative government since it came into office in 1957. If we have succeeded in converting economic recession into a period of progress and prosperity for Canada, it is precisely due to the dynamic steps taken by the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) and the members of the government to get the Canadian economy on the move again.

If the economy today is flourishing, it is because of the increased purchasing power distributed among all the nation's families, to the advantage of each and every citizen of the country.

The present government has taken care of the aged, the disabled, the blind, and of our pensioned veterans who, even today, are still bearing the marks of their glorious deeds in the two world wars.

As far as the development of the secondary industry is concerned, the government has stimulated the productivity of our industries by enabling them to sell their products both on the domestic and the foreign markets.

Figures show that, in the year 1961 alone, with all due deference to our opponents of the Liberal and C.C.F. parties, our sales to the common market countries have increased by 16 per cent; those to Eastern Europe, by 90 per cent; those to Japan, by 38 per cent.

During the first eight months of 1961 alone, \$312 million of Canadian commodities were sold to the Eastern world. We have disposed of wheat and pork surpluses and we are in the process of disposing of our milk products.

Mr. Speaker, those are positive results accomplished by the Prime Minister, by whose side I have the honour to serve, and by the Conservative government which, more than any other government, has given a good, wise and sound administration to this country so dear to us, to the Canadian nation which has done us great honor and confidence by asking us to take over the government.

A moment ago, the hon. member for Essex-East, pursuing his pet hobby, that is unemployment, was trying to tell us that the situation is worse today than it was the day before this government assumed power.

[Mr. Seigny.]

Mr. Speaker, those statements are not based on facts. It is unfortunate that the hon. member is not now in his seat to hear what I am about to tell him.

If my hon. friend had gone over the figures of the dominion bureau of statistics, he would know that in November, 1961, 80,000 more workers were employed as compared to the corresponding month for 1960. And it is interesting to note that a group of 46,000 persons have increased the Canadian labour force during the period extending from the end of 1961 to the beginning of 1962.

This means that 126,000 workers have found jobs, thanks to the dynamic action of the leaders of the Conservative party and to the intelligent steps they have taken.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to point out other facts that, in my opinion, deserve to be mentioned. And, with supporting figures and facts, I wish to say the following words.

The statistics show, Mr. Speaker, that, during the four years from 1957 to 1961, more than 500,000 new workers tried to find work in the industries of our country. It is truly remarkable that 430,000 of them should have found work that seemed stable, even during the period of economic recession that we have just gone through.

Let us compare, Mr. Speaker, the figures for the period from 1957 to 1960 with those for the period from 1946 to 1950, the four years that followed the second world war, during which 334,000 people, and not 500,000 were added to the labour force in Canada and during which 310,000 new jobs were created in spite of the extraordinary economic prosperity that prevailed in this country. I also think it necessary to compare the figures from 1957 to 1960, with those of the period from 1951 to 1955, during which, in spite of the state of war in Korea, only 267,000 new jobs were created in Canada and 387,000 new workers were seeking employment.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Essex East tried earlier today to ridicule the winter works program which was devised and worked out by this government, by resorting to irony and even trying to laugh it off. He said that it was ridiculous to glorify the fact that 111,000 new Canadian workers will find employment thanks to that program.

Mr. Speaker, it is thanks to the winter works program, which was devised and