

Canada's prosperity to-day rests in the first degree on the energetic development of her natural resources, whether the direct cultivation of the land to agricultural production, the utilization of her great mineral resources, or the encouragement and export expansion of her fisheries. Hastings county is very similar to the rest of the Dominion in that within the county we have great mineral wealth, the fisheries of the bay of Quinte, and splendid industrial development at Belleville and Trenton. In 1922, the commercial fish caught and landed in the bay of Quinte fisheries totalled about 1,500,000 pounds, valued to the fishermen at \$134,835. While this may seem small compared with British Columbia and the Maritimes, it is nevertheless an industry of tremendous importance to the district and makes for a bond of understanding and sympathy between us in this matter that may not be so strong in some of the inland counties. I think that is well, for I feel that the intangible danger of sectionalism springing up in Canada is one more to be combated than many a more material bogey, and that it is by understanding among widely separated groups with common interests that we shall build up a united Dominion.

Growing evidence that our mineral resources are possibly the richest in the world makes it imperative that provincial and federal governments should unite in conserving those resources, promoting continuous production and maintaining within Canada capital, labour, transportation and power.

The county of Hastings is heavily mineralized. Among the non-metallies found are talc and fluorspar which occur in the vicinity of Madoc; limestone suitable for cement making, near Pointe Anne, seven miles from Belleville; marble and feldspar near Bancroft; actinolite near the municipality bearing that name; and garnet in the northern part of the county. There are two cement plants in Belleville, and there are four brick-making plants in the county. Metallic ores found in Hastings county include iron both as hematite and as magnetite; mispickel ore which was mined some years ago for the recovery of gold and arsenic; iron pyrites near the village of Sulphide, mined by the Nichols Chemical Company, for the production of sulphuric acid at that point; copper ore in Madoc and Marmora townships; lead in the townships of Lake and Tudor; and molybdenum in Dunganon and Monteaule townships. There are many other mineral deposits in the county of Hastings which so far have not been exploited commercially.

As a business man in the city of Belleville, I am in a position daily to see the inseparable

interrelation of industry and agriculture and the constant interplay of one on the other. There are some fifty manufacturing concerns of varying size in the city of Belleville, and about twenty-five in Trenton. The capital invested runs well over seven million dollars, with a pay roll of over a million, and some three and a half millions to four millions annual gross production. Agricultural conditions have improved. The budget resolutions of last year did not increase imports to our district—they merely reduced the price of the articles affected. This gave a very evident stimulation in the general condition of agriculture, mining and fishing in our district, which was reflected in the neighbouring towns and villages. Basing my judgment solely on evidence within my own knowledge, I find that both agriculture and industry were aided.

The Address gave intimation of reduced expenditure. There is nothing more urgent in the interests of agricultural and industrial development, trade expansion, a renewed flow of population, and a consequent lowered average cost of transportation, than some shifting of the very heavy burden of taxation, federal, provincial and municipal, that young Canada bears upon his shoulders. There can be no division of opinion herein as between party and party, or between dominion and province, province and municipality. And, in the earnest hope that we may all unite towards attaining this desired end, I beg leave, Mr. Speaker, to second the motion moved by the hon. member for Rimouski.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege again to be the first in extending to the mover (Sir Eugene Fiset) and the seconder (Mr. Hanna) of the Address the congratulations of the House on having discharged acceptably a difficult task. We never had any fears as to the hon. member for Rimouski (Sir Eugene Fiset), and it is very apparent that the House of Commons is to have no terrors for him. This is not the hon. member's first experience in public circles. As we all know, he has been connected with the service of Canada for some decades, and I take the opportunity to bear testimony to the efficiency with which he discharged his duties. I hope his career in the higher sphere, as we call it, will be equally creditable to him. His health appears abundantly restored.

Speaking in somewhat different strain, maybe he will permit me to extend to him the sympathies of all who have laboured with him, in the fact, as it appears from very recent utterances of his, that for many years he