

The Address—Mr. Gillis

panorama opens out to one's view, and offers the greatest scenery in Canada; there is nothing to surpass it in this country.

I come now to the Shebandowan district, which is said to have many varieties of ore, including gold, silver and platinum. I shall not attempt to mention them all because of the danger of confusion. The fact remains that the Shebandowan area offers many varieties of ore. Last year I placed a resolution on the order paper asking that the men who had patented their claims should receive some assistance from the then department of mines and resources. I suggested that they be given a drill, that tests be made, and that the costs of such operations be taken from the receipts from production. We have in the Shebandowan district a district which offers outstanding possibilities for the future.

I should like to say a word on unemployment. If there is one thing that we think we should not have in Canada, it is unemployment. It is all a matter of planning. Something will have to be done at the lakehead to plan so that the seasonal workers will have work the year round, although I admit that that will be difficult. I notice the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) is proposing an amendment to the Unemployment Insurance Act. The act should be extended and this amendment will do considerable good.

The labour unions of Fort William are doing a great job. I take my cue from them when I say that if all trade unions in Canada were like them there would be greater harmony in labour relations. Many of the officers of the labour unions up there attend their churches on Sunday, the churches which their fathers and mothers taught them to worship in. I venture to say that when labour realizes that in the Christian church they have an ally that has fought against monopolies which would crush the workingmen, when labour and religion are ready to work side by side, greater security will be achieved.

We have a splendid example in the former prime minister. An English member of parliament once wondered at his good judgment, but I want to say that anyone who begins his daily task by reading a chapter from the old book and taking the Master Workman as his guide will not be afraid of anything. Such a man will be able to stand on his own feet and think for himself.

I should like to speak at greater length but there will be other opportunities. If any hon. members feel like visiting the beauty spots at Fort William they will soon have an opportunity when the trans-Canada highway is completed.

Mr. Clarence Gillis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, after listening to the debate so far, and particularly to government members, I begin to wonder whether I live in the same country as they. I get around quite a lot when the house is not in session. I held a lot of meetings and I met a lot of people since we were here last. Many of the statements I have heard so far in this debate certainly do not sound like the things I heard outside. It may be that other members do not get around as much.

My impression of conditions in the country today is reminiscent of 1939. I definitely get the same feeling. Pretty much the same conditions are developing outside and pretty much the same attitude prevails in the house. There seems to be apathy; we are going to do it tomorrow. We have to start to plan, as the last speaker said, but I thought the planning was all done. There are one or two things on which I should like to focus attention and I do this because of their immediate urgency. The time has passed for talk. I think the time has come for action in connection with the matters to which I am going to refer.

First, I am going to deal with the means test. I think the time has passed for talk on this particular matter. We have been talking about it ever since I came into the house. The last speaker said that he was pleased to see a reference in the speech from the throne to the abolition of the means test in connection with old age pensions. The hon. member must have read a different speech from the one I read because there is no reference to that in the speech. I think what the hon. member is referring to is a resolution that is now on the order paper. The speech from the throne is a forecast of the legislation which the government is going to present to the house and for the benefit of the last speaker I would say that there is no reference in the throne speech to the abolition of the means test, which would indicate that the government is not going to do anything about it.

We should not kid ourselves about the value of a committee in connection with a matter of this kind. Anyone who has been in the house for any length of time realizes that when the government wants to shelve a hot potato it is passed over to a committee of this house to talk about, to write a report on it which is then put in the archives to gather dust. But in the meantime you cannot say much about it because a committee is to handle it.

I am rather surprised that the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) should have placed this resolution on the