

After reading the Speech from the Throne, we know no more of what is going to be offered to Parliament for consideration than if it had never been written. I do not think that is fair to the people of Canada. In the days gone by my honourable friend has stood up for what they call democracy. Democracy should be an open book which the people may read and inwardly digest, so that they may be able to meet the situation. Take the St. Lawrence Waterways, for instance. All I know is that there is going to be a presidential election in the United States, and that in May or June there is going to be a convention of the Republican party in Kansas City. Mark my words: there are twenty-two States wanting this waterway opened, and if the Government of to-day is worth one snap of my finger, the United States will furnish the money to build, wherever the Dominion Government chooses to locate it, and free of cost to the people of Canada, a canal carrying down the waters of the St. Lawrence. I am not joking. The support of those twenty-two States is necessary to elect the next President. And why should the United States not build the canal? Do they not float their ships down the St. Lawrence to-day under the Treaty, the same as we do? There is no reason why their Government will not build the St. Lawrence waterways for us, as we say, where we say, and when we say, free of cost to the people of Canada. I hear the vibration of their voices in Montreal, and here in Ottawa. Why it comes to me I cannot say, but it does; and from what I have heard I feel authorized to say that the United States is prepared to furnish the money.

Speaking of the question of fertilization and scientific research, raised by my honourable friend the leader on this side of the House (Hon. W. B. Ross), I desire to repeat what I have said before, that in the old farming communities the salts and the lime and the essentials for production are very largely gone, and they can never be recovered until some scientific research gives us a new fertilizer at a cost away below the present cost of the article. I say that to put back in the soil the lime that has been taken out of it, in order that it may grow crops, would cost more than the building of the Canadian National Railways. Something has to be done. There are two things that might be done: a smaller cultivation for one thing, and reforestation, in parts that are not cultivated, for another. Then let us have a study made of the use of electric current, of which we read now and again in the newspapers and magazines. If that is practicable, let it be hurried along by

Hon. Mr. POPE.

means of research, so the farming community of this country may have something to restore the fertility of the soil which did so much to make successful the fathers and grandfathers of the present day farmers. Many a man has turned away from the farm because he could not accomplish what his father or his grandfather accomplished before him. There are numerous reasons for his failure. First of all, a man cannot live to-day in the same style or as economically as they did in the past; if he is going to keep his boys and girls interested he has to rear in up-to-date fashion. Then, the soil being impoverished, produces diseased crops. When I was a boy a rotten potato was unknown; I remember the first one I ever saw, and we grew hundreds of bushels of them on our farm. That condition must be dealt with, not by preaching, not by writing letters or sending out pamphlets, but by means of scientific research to the end that we may overcome these handicaps.

Honourable gentlemen, I am through. I thank you very kindly for the attention you have given me. I trust I have not trespassed upon the ground that my honourable friend opposite (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) forbids me to walk on.

Right Hon. GEORGE P. GRAHAM: Honourable gentlemen, you are about to hear from a third new member of the Senate. As one a little senior to the two young members who have moved and seconded the Address to-day, I may be permitted to congratulate them on what they said and how they said it; but still more I congratulate this body upon having such young men sent to it. The average age of the Senate apparently is decreasing, and if we take any stock in the argument that life insurance companies make use of—that they are more solid because the average age is not increasing—we may say to all and sundry who think the Senate is likely to come to an end, that the average age is decreasing, and consequently the expectancy of life is increasing.

Several comments have been made on the Speech from the Throne by others than the mover and seconder. In all my years in public life, no matter which party was in power, I have never known the other side to be satisfied with the Speech from the Throne. Two years ago the Government was attacked because they had placed something in the Speech which old parliamentarians said should have been left for the Budget. That year the Speech contained too much; this year it does not contain enough. It is difficult, I presume, for a Government to know just what to put in a Speech from the Throne. If they say much