

and west. We believe we are the tie between eastern and western Canada and that our position is most important to the economy of the country. For instance, the first monument of the dominion land survey was erected on July 10, 1871, on the principal meridian where the west starts, which is located in my constituency. The Trans-Canada Highway and both the main lines of Canadian National Railways and Canadian Pacific Railway travel through my constituency and the airways travel over it. Therefore, it is almost essential to pass through my constituency when travelling from east to west in this country. The Assiniboine River, a very famous waterway in the early days of transportation, travels right next to the city of Portage la Prairie, which is the largest centre in my constituency and is the city in which I reside.

Strangely enough, when I first came to Ottawa because there was an "e" at the end of my name and my home town was Portage la Prairie, it was automatically concluded that I was of French extraction. My name, constituency and seat number were called out in French. In the early days the French did have a great deal to do with various parts of Manitoba. In fact, Portage la Prairie originated because people travelling by water in that part of the country had to portage the prairie from the Assiniboine River to Lake Manitoba.

To give you an idea of the cosmopolitan make-up of some areas of western Canada, my own constituency consists of 45 per cent British, 13 per cent French, 11 per cent German, 9 per cent Ukrainian, 7 per cent from other European countries and 4 per cent from the Netherlands. This illustrates how much Canada is populated by people from all over the world. As well there are two Indian reserves and 19 Hutterite colonies.

In this area we feel we are capable of looking after ourselves as well as others. In addition to many churches, hospitals, schools, etc., in the constituency of Portage there is the Manitoba School for Mental Retardates, the Manitoba Home for Boys, the Manitoba provincial women's jail, the Manitoba men's jail, the federal government penitentiary of Stoney Mountain and a residence for Indian students, as well as Indian schools. We are capable of looking after ourselves and are only too pleased to have the opportunity of looking after others.

Also very important to our area is a special crop sub-station, a subsidiary of the Morden Experimental Farm, which in the past year has received great praise for their work in

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establishing new crops. We are also blessed with the Delta water fowl area, one of the best hunting areas in western Canada, where the Delta water fowl research station is located. This was developed through the investment of Americans who vowed to replace every bird taken from our country. It has expanded into a tremendous operation which deals with the problems of raising wildlife and understanding their patterns. During the summer students from all over the United States visit this station to further their studies.

Whilst our climate may not appear attractive to everybody, it does afford a wonderful opportunity to participate in all types of sport, particularly hunting, and we were very proud of having had the opportunity to host part of the Pan-Am baseball games. The basic industry is agriculture, encompassing all kinds of cereal grains, sunflowers and other oil seeds, as well as vegetables and potatoes which are increasing by being sown. Commercial fishing and dairy products have also played a big part in the economy. The establishment of Campbell's Soup in the area has contributed greatly to the increased production of vegetables. Apart from agricultural products our manufacturing complement is very low. However, like many other areas across Canada we look forward to the new program for increasing employment and hope to obtain more industry, particularly of the type concerned with processing our products.

Mr. Speaker, some of the things that must be done to maintain the position of agriculture in our society are of great importance to the people of western Canada. An important one in my estimation is the establishment of a Canadian sales agency. In this regard I think we should seek the involvement of elevator companies who serve the farmers. They are well acquainted with the problems of agriculture and would welcome an opportunity to expand their facilities. In fact, I would suggest that as has been done by other countries, these people should be in a position to establish feed mills abroad which would provide an opportunity for feed grain to be sold in other countries. We should be in a position to provide flour mills so that people requiring flour will use our wheat. The success of some other countries in this venture is evident and I believe we have fallen far behind in efforts to promote our product. It is most essential that a much freer movement of feed grain across our country be established.