

of interference by anyone with the royal tour. The people of my province, along with other Canadians, are most happy that the royal couple should set such a fine example of the virtues of home and family life as we know them.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I wish to say a few words to the honourable mover (Hon. Mr. Vien) and the honourable seconder (Hon. Mr. Wood) of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I say candidly and with the best of good will that I was a little disappointed with the speech of the honourable mover. Certainly, he is a most eloquent parliamentarian, a well educated man and one who, like many others, has given great public service to his province and to the country at large. Nevertheless, I was a little disappointed in his remarks, because I felt that he read too much of his speech for it to have the proper effect on the members of this house. True, he gave a fine summary of the accomplishments of the Liberal party during the past fifteen or sixteen years. I think, however, he overlooked one important point, which appears in the *Minutes of the Proceedings* of this house on June 21 last, at pages 412 and 413. Had he had those pages before him, I am quite sure he would have included in his speech some of the facts they contain. There it is shown how the expenditures of government in every department—municipal, provincial and the federal—have shot upwards within the past fifteen years.

Hon. Mr. King: We are growing.

Hon. Mr. Haig: The costs are still growing.

I was delighted with the speech of the honourable senator who seconded the motion. I thought he showed great judgment in his references to grain-crop conditions in Western Canada. He is a true westerner, and he set clearly before you the problem that we of the West face in the matter of production. Although Alberta also produces oil to some extent—

Hon. Mr. MacKinnon: Everything.

Hon. Mr. Haig: —and Saskatchewan possesses some oil, and probably some radium, the prairies are mainly dependent upon grain crops. I advised the honourable senator from Regina (Hon. Mr. Wood) that I intended to steal some of his thunder. This season the prairie provinces gave every sign of producing the best grain crop ever raised in our country, but unfortunately, because of rains which began in August and continued through September into October, much of the crop will never be harvested. As the honourable senator mentioned, probably one-third

of the grain will be non-millable, that is it cannot be converted into flour. Nevertheless this year's harvest, plus the heavy carry-over from last year, confronts the transportation system with a weighty problem.

In this connection I want to congratulate the government upon having appointed Roy Milner to supervise the organization of grain transportation. I know him well. He was, I believe, born in Winnipeg, and after some years spent in Alberta returned to Manitoba. He knows the grain business, including the problems of grain transportation, from beginning to end. He is reliable, possesses much business ability, and also—something that I think is needed to handle a system of this kind—lots of guts; the resolution to carry out what he thinks should be done. No doubt he will have a fair amount of trouble to overcome in his new position, but I know of no other man in my experience of the western provinces who, under the very difficult circumstances of the times, is capable of doing a better job.

Having complimented the honourable member from Regina on his address, I want to congratulate the government—though let nobody suppose that I am a supporter of this government.

An Hon. Senator: You are a young man yet.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I want to congratulate the government upon the manner in which they have handled the drainage problem connected with the Red River floods last year. Canada and the world at large responded magnificently to the flood emergency, and we Manitobans, especially the inhabitants of the Red River valley, can never be too grateful to people in this country, and in every part of the world where our calamity was known, for the way they "came through" and helped us. Especially I would express my appreciation of the action of the Dominion Government and Parliament. Not only did they respond readily to our request for money—financial aid is not always the most important—but we have been inspired by the promptitude with which they made available engineering skill and created conditions which I think will protect us for many years from a recurrence of flooding. In a word, what has been done is to erect, in urban areas, permanent driveways at a height of forty-five feet above the datum line along the Red River valley. These roads are being used today as highways. A flood of the dimensions of the one last year would require the heightening of the roadway by two and a half feet; but there is of course plenty of room for the provision of this additional protection. One-fourth of the cost of this work falls on the province, three-fourths, or approximately