

*The Address—Mr. A. W. Stuart*

which the prosperity and the standard of living in this particular section of the country is gauged. Authentic records are available which are most convincing, indicating that we have been fighting and are now fighting a losing battle. The figures which are most convincing in that regard are the figures of our population, which has been steadily declining since 1871. One of the most important things in the growth of any section of our country is population. We must have the population in order to grow. Instead of our population increasing, in Charlotte county since 1871 it has decreased.

This fact should be sufficient to prove that the fishing industry, which I have said is the backbone of our economy there, has not been able to supply a sufficient reward to even support the population, exclusive of the natural increase. It is therefore apparent that if our fishing communities are to be maintained rather than become ghost towns, something better must be provided which will create employment and bring us a fair share of Canadian prosperity.

To my knowledge, as a resident of that particular section, there is one answer to this problem and one only. Again this is a matter which has been brought to the attention of the government on different occasions. I bring it to their attention once more in the hope that I may be able to convince them that some way may be found to complete this investigation, so we may look forward to a very happy and prosperous future. I am referring to the Passamaquoddy power project. I am not an engineer but I believe that, if constructed, the project would bring industry to that part of Canada, a part which is greatly in need of industry right now. It would provide employment for those who are now being educated but who must leave that part of the country and seek employment elsewhere.

Those are the things that are so bad. No father or mother wishes to see his or her son or daughter placed in a position where he or she is obliged to leave home to seek employment in some other part of the world, or on this continent. Since I left here last May and returned to my home I know I can say without fear of contradiction that I have written recommendations for 50 or 75 honest, ambitious, hard-working young men who were obliged to leave that part of the country and come to central Canada in order that they might be able to provide the things they wanted to provide for their families.

That is the position with which we are faced. Our population down there is decreasing. I feel the only thing to do is to face up to these facts and bring them to light. Let me add at this point that some of the most influential citizens in my province today, through the radio and press, are trying to make the citizens believe that all is well. They are referring to this great era of prosperity in New Brunswick. I listened over the radio, before coming here, to these leaders in my province.

Well, when one whistles going through a cemetery, while it might boost his morale it does not change the atmosphere one iota. I believe in telling the people the truth. No one is more willing than I to admit that conditions are not good down there. I know that, and some way must be found to make an improvement.

As I have said, there is one way only to solve the problem, and that is to go ahead with this project which, to my knowledge, has been thrown back and forth for the last 27 or 28 years. I must endeavour in every way within my humble capacity to impress upon the government the necessity for completing this survey which means so much to the people of Charlotte county in southern New Brunswick, as well as to those in other parts of the province.

It is unfortunate that we have not the facilities to induce these young men and women to stay home. I believe if we had some such inducement in the form of additional industry they would prefer to live in that part of Canada rather than any other. I am striving to see if some way can be found to improve this condition.

In my experience in the fishing industry we have had what might be called boom times, but they were of short duration. The general picture has been that the first industry to feel the pinch has been fishing. In fact I believe hon. members will agree that the first to feel the pinch are always the primary producers, those rugged individuals who are the backbone of our country.

The prosperity of a country can be based only upon what its citizens are able to produce. If there is no prosperity among the primary producers, it is impossible to find prosperity anywhere else in the country.

On motion of Mr. Stuart (Charlotte) the debate was adjourned.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.