

*The Address—Mr. Robichaud*

years of experience and his reputation as an outstanding lawyer and parliamentarian have assured him of this confidence and the highly responsible honour tendered him by his party supporters.

*(Translation):*

The 60,000-odd citizens of Gloucester constituency, of whom 85 per cent are the descendants of those who lived in the Acadia of 1755, have made a very important contribution to the economic and cultural growth of our country. They are also among the first to understand the necessity of national unity in the pursuit of our common goal. After their deportation, the Acadian people were in a very precarious situation. But, through their indomitable courage and their will to survive, they gradually recovered and overcame many obstacles before becoming an important element in the life of our nation. Their gradual settlement in northern New Brunswick and along the coast of Gloucester can perhaps be explained by their love of the sea and the forest, and an irresistible urge to settle close to the ocean.

I do not intend to take undue advantage of the few minutes at my disposal to relate the history of my constituency. As most of the population is rural, a great many of my people are interested in the fishing industry, and a sizeable proportion of them practise the noble occupation of farmer. During the last ten years, the fishing industry, which is predominant along the 200 miles or so of coastal areas in Gloucester, has known a development and an expansion comparable with the transformations which have taken place in every section of this country. Our modern fishing fleet compares favourably with any other on the Atlantic coast. The federal departments of fisheries and public works have widely co-operated with provincial authorities in making possible these changes in the fishing industry in my constituency.

As we enumerate the important milestones in the evolution of this country and in the economic expansion of the last few years, we must take note of the mineral developments in the Bathurst district. The discovery of zinc, lead and copper ore must rank foremost among the major mining discoveries of the year 1953. We may infer from it an economic expansion unprecedented in the history of our province. Bathurst, a little town of 5,000 people, has been mainly known so far for its pulp and paper mill, its lumber industries, its mechanical parts plant, etc. This little town, which up to now had been perfectly calm, has now become a centre of great activity and undergone changes which in the near future may well go beyond the most optimistic hopes. It is true that a large

number of the people in my constituency and even in the province of New Brunswick as a whole are uncertain and doubtful about these developments, which they find somewhat too slow and possibly not spectacular enough. I would like to reassure them and to inspire them with my own confidence. A new public building will be built this year in Bathurst. Moreover, a deep water port will soon be established there from which minerals and other products of the area may be shipped, almost the year round. The mining companies will continue to expand and we are assured of the fullest co-operation of the federal authorities in each and every area which is of concern to them.

These mines will bring additional revenue to our province and contribute to the economic expansion of this country. We in New Brunswick are only beginning this mining expansion whose value in 1956 reached the almost fabulous amount of over two billion dollars, representing twice the production of 1950. Through the co-operation of the department of mines and technical surveys, we were assured of an excellent service which made this development possible particularly in New Brunswick. There is no longer any doubt that the marked and sensational development of the Bathurst area will gradually extend to other areas of my constituency and of the province.

New jobs will be available for thousands of people and, with the contemplated increase in population, new outlets will be created for our agricultural and fish products.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to overtax the patience of this house and, without further ado, I shall deal with some of the main points of the speech that was just read to us in the senate by His Excellency the Governor General.

At the beginning of this new year, there is no doubt that we are going through one of the most critical periods of our history. As stated in the speech from the throne, the instability of the situation in the Middle East, the disastrous effects of the persecution of the unfortunate Hungarian people should make us think more seriously and bring each and every one of us, whatever our political affiliation, to a sense of responsibility, that will guide us in our deliberations, and to a greater appreciation of the freedom of speech and action guaranteed to us by the constitution of our country.

It was with pride, was it not, and not without some glory, that the great majority of the Canadian people approved the stand taken by our representatives at the United Nations.

Has not Canada, despite the opinion expressed by some political antagonists, been an important factor of solidarity in the common-