

*The Address—Mr. Marceau*

and its vast forest, big industry has settled there.

Logging operations are one of the biggest industries in the Saguenay, and this has been so for 130 years. Its main production is pulp and paper, with an annual output of 735,000 tons.

Metallurgical operations began in the area with the building of the Arvida plants in 1926.

[English]

I feel the famous Saguenay blueberries are particularly noteworthy. Some say that two of those berries are enough to make a pie. Don't believe it! I know that a single one is more than enough.

[Translation]

We have a population of approximately 360,000 people. The greatest part of it is of French-Canadian origin and of Catholic faith; it numbers more than 5,500 Indians. Needless to say, our people have their qualities and their shortcomings: and among those one can mention their honesty, their frankness, their sense of duty, their generosity and their sense of beauty.

Mr. Speaker, I should like here, if I may, to express my regard and my friendship for all the electors of the constituency of Lapointe whom I represent here, and who possess more than anyone the precious qualities I have just mentioned. Believe me, I feel it is a privilege to live among citizens so prominent and so aware of their responsibilities.

In my constituency, which comprises namely Arvida, the aluminum city, and the county town of Jonquière-Kénogami, pilot projects and achievements in the educational and cultural fields have always found a fertile environment, for the people are dynamic, alert and creative.

Five years ago, 30 English-speaking and 30 French-speaking Canadians set up a country-wide, nonpolitical and independent organization—a Canada Committee—whose aim is to promote Canadian unity. Its members are very active in my region.

We also have a memorial centre which was built during centennial year and which is in fact a well patronized regional cultural centre. The federal government shared the construction costs and I hope it will participate in the centre's development because, even if our constitution puts education under provincial jurisdiction, culture has a much wider scope and does not know any provincial

boundary. The federal parliament should be involved in this field as it is responsible for protecting and assisting the two main linguistic communities.

The Saguenay has its anthem which was composed in 1938, the words having been set to the music of "Silver Threads Amongst the Gold".

The Saguenay finally has its flag representing its four main resources.

Its vast forest, a source of economic activity, is represented by the colour green, symbol of its age.

The agricultural sector is represented by the colour yellow, symbol of the land which carries and produces life.

Grey stands for industry and trade.

The people, a strong and energetic breed, are represented, no doubt through a coincidence, by the colour red.

The feast-day of the Saguenay falls on June 11.

My majestic and adopted country—that is, my constituency of Lapointe—is not free from serious problems which, even though they exist elsewhere, do not reach such dramatic proportions.

Unemployment now stands at the alarming level of 14 per cent. Since the labour market cannot absorb the ever increasing number of those who want to join it, qualified workers must leave the area if they do not want to graduate as jobless or become dissenters who protest against an affluent society which denies them the right to earn a decent living.

Dairy production makes up an important part of our farming industry. Government policy in that field is therefore likely to have a deep impact and I am far from snapping my fingers at the criticisms voiced recently by several farmers.

• (3:30 p.m.)

Needless to specify that farmers have the right to live as everybody else and do not have to bear alone the economic problems caused by the marketing of their products.

Although I realize how complex those problems are, I nonetheless stress the necessity of finding prompt and effective solutions.

As practical suggestions, in the name of my constituents, I urgently ask:

1. That the Saguenay region be selected as one of the poles of growth essential to any planning. It is obviously essential and urgent to set up an economic substructure in my region.