

*The Address—Mr. Applewhaite*

of an extensive area still sufficiently virgin to provide so much game, the district numbers among its population many North American Indians.

That brings me to a subject which really justifies a full forty-minute speech in itself—in fact, I might make one. In the meantime, I should like to say a word about our Indian population. These people are people, Mr. Speaker, just as you and I. They are citizens of Canada. They are not only worthy of the interest and concern of this house, they are the responsibility of this house. It is a responsibility we must face up to. To what extent they are today inferior citizens, to that extent I am afraid we are largely to blame. Some betterments must, of course, take time; others can be speedily made. For instance, we have in many places native Indian villages which are headquarters for quite large bands. Some of these villages are remote and fairly expensive to reach. Nevertheless, I submit we should see that they are supplied with the same facilities with which we would supply white settlements of perhaps smaller population.

In this connection, the Post Office Department could be of tremendous help. Here, I should like to express my gratitude for and appreciation of the recently opened post office at Fort Babine, which will prove a real boon to many. But such other villages as Kitkatla and Kispiox and Kitimaat and so on, also justify such service. This is one very small way in which we can assist our Indian citizens to become a more integral part of Canada. I hope that the department and the house will continue to see that the advantages of better and improved services are given to the Indian villages.

I have a resolution from the northern district native brotherhood of British Columbia urging, among other things, the immediate consideration of the revision of the Indian Act. I note with pleasure, as they will, that this matter is to come before us at this session. I trust that it will come before us early, so we may give it ample study.

There is only one incorporated city in my whole district and that is the city of Prince Rupert. Built as the terminus, not a terminus but the terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific, Prince Rupert, through a combination of circumstances entirely beyond local control, has lived through thirty years of depression, disappointment and frustration, to emerge in the recent war as one of British Columbia's most important cities. Originally visioned as a port for transpacific shipping, Prince Rupert now finds itself achieving its destiny along other lines. It has always had

a large fishing industry. It is the halibut capital of the world. More halibut is landed at Prince Rupert than anywhere else on the globe. I hope that fishing will always continue to be a major factor in Prince Rupert's economy. Fishing deserves, as it is getting under the present Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Mayhew), the attention and consideration which is due a major industry. My hon. friends from Newfoundland will agree with that.

Two large organizations, I regret to admit that neither of them was originally Canadian, have now realized and acted upon the strategic value of Prince Rupert's location. First, the United States government in the recent war chose Prince Rupert as one of its chief Pacific ports. That activity, of course, is over now. Second, the Celanese Corporation of America, through its Canadian subsidiary, Columbia Cellulose Limited, saw the true picture of a combination of Prince Rupert's location and the resources of the district. They have under construction an immense pulp plant which will provide payrolls and industrial activity in perpetuity.

Prince Rupert, by geography, is the logical supply port for Alaska. I sincerely trust that this government will continue to work along all possible lines to ease all restrictions on international trade, and thus encourage our American friends to do likewise. In this way, Prince Rupert and other Canadian ports may take their logical place in the Alaskan trade. Nothing can stop Prince Rupert's forward march, but governmental help can easily speed it up.

There is just one other section of my district which I wish to mention specifically, the Portland canal-Alice Arm district. This is one of the best known mineral producing areas in British Columbia. The old Granby Consolidated copper mine at Anyox produced a gross value of close to \$96 million. The famous Premier mine at Premier near Stewart, British Columbia, has to date a gross production value of \$75 million. At Alice Arm, Torbit Silver Mines are today in regular production of silver which, incidentally, is all going to the photographic industry in the United States, thus materially helping our dollar situation. The little mining town of Stewart, a most picturesque spot, situated at the head of the Portland canal right on the Alaskan border, is the centre of a mineralized area whose potentialities I predict will still not be fully known one hundred years from now.

I was up there the other day, and I saw some of the electrum they are now shipping from that place. I saw some ore recently shipped from Tide lake, which is about 25