

located here but will be of material benefit in connection with an immigration policy.

There is also the question of railroads. A country that produces the world's best wheat and oats, such as the Peace River district, must offer unrivalled opportunities for settlement. It is a region of marvellous productive ability, with many thousands of acres of cheap land awaiting the settler's plough. A great immigration movement could be started in that direction. The only thing necessary to bring that about is an announcement that the Peace River district will be given an outlet to the Pacific coast without delay.

Another railway which would be heralded with great joy by settlers in northern Alberta south of the Saskatchewan river, is the new railway which the Canadian Pacific is building from Cut Knife, Saskatchewan. The influence of the government in speeding up construction on this line would be greatly appreciated in that part of the west. As it is now many of the settlers there, and the district is very well settled, have to haul grain as many as forty or forty-five miles to the nearest point of transportation.

It is also to be hoped that the government will not discontinue grants to B-circuit fairs. Such fairs are of immense educational value to the communities in which they are held. A discontinuance of such grants would kill all interest in such fairs, as the committees in charge depend largely on these grants to finance their undertakings. It is said by some that it would be better to give grants to fairs in cities like Toronto. I think that even cities like Toronto get most of their exhibits from small country places as Vegreville and other towns of its size.

This morning I received a resolution from the Town Council of the town of Tofield, which reads as follows:

Resolved, that whereas Cooking lake forest reserve contains much arable land and land suitable for the raising of live stock, and while it is at present being used by the Blackfoot Stock Association to some extent for the ranging and pasturing of cattle, this town council is of the belief that this land could be best utilized, and would become of the greatest use to the greatest number if it were thrown open for settlement and homestead entry.

We therefore suggest to the hon. Minister of the Interior, for his consideration, that that portion of the Cooking lake forest reserve lying south of the Edmonton-Mundare highway be thrown open for homestead entry with the right of pre-emption, or purchase at a reasonable figure, of a further quarter-section.

I happen to know this Cooking lake reserve. It contains about 66 sections of land, and if it were settled on the basis of one settler for each half section, about 130 settlers could be

placed on it. I think it would be a far better scheme to place these settlers on the reserve than to have the reserve used as it is now by the Blackfoot Stock Association for the ranging and pasturing of cattle. I think it would be of greater advantage not only to that community itself but to Canada as a whole if this land were thrown open to settlers. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the government will take cognizance of the remarks I have made.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Toronto Northwest): As one of the members from the province of Ontario, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a few words to-night on this debate. I very much regret that in the speech from the throne the government have given no indication that they are going to take any active steps to solve the economic ills of the country. There is the problem, for instance, of unemployment. Unemployment to-day in the larger centres of population is very acute. I might refer to the unemployment in the large manufacturing city from which I come. I know the conditions there, and I know that in the past few days very rapid preparations have been made by the social and charitable institutions and public bodies of various kinds in the city to try and cope with the unemployment situation with which we shall be faced this coming winter. I regret, I say, that the government in the speech from the throne has announced no definite policy for taking care of the economic ills in the larger centres of population in this country. They have no practical solution of these problems to bring before the House and the country at the present time.

One of the essential features of a speech from the throne is to give the representatives of the people in parliament the opportunity of bringing before the House and the country the economic problems that are facing the country, with a view to applying a remedy to the disease, if there is any, that affects the country. Looking over the speech from the throne I find that it deals very largely in platitudes. It says something about the coal question. Well, Mr. Speaker, for five successive sessions the question of a national coal policy has been before this House, and what has the government done? Has it done anything to bring Nova Scotia coal to central Canada? Has it done anything to bring Alberta coal to central Canada? No. The government has simply made a political football of the question for the past five sessions. This question of a national fuel supply was to be referred on the 7th of March last to the railway commission. How did they treat the