

*The Address—Mr. A. R. Smith*

many of Canada's provinces have been led to conduct an examination or assessment of their reserves of natural wealth. I believe that in order to assess the policies which should govern conservation it is important we should know what resources we have before we know what we can utilize or what we can preserve. I may say that in the province of Alberta—and I was a member of that legislature at one time—we assessed those resources and in consequence were able to develop conservation practices which have been in the interest not only of industry but of the people as a whole.

I believe that through the office of geological survey of this country—though I realize there may be legislative problems involved as between the federal government and the provinces—important results can be achieved. If we could do no more than provide the incentive and the encouragement for those provinces we would be doing a service of importance toward the development of our resources. The United States, if I may refer to this as an example, conducted a survey a few years ago. We in Canada are now described by foreign editorial writers as the country most likely to succeed and although time is still on our side I believe we cannot delay too long before such an undertaking as I have suggested is considered.

Having discussed the business which is to come before this house I believe it is in keeping with the traditions of the address in reply to the speech from the throne that I should say something about the constituency which I have the honour to represent. However, I do not intend at this point to take up any time in extolling the virtues of Calgary. It would indeed be a discourtesy to the city that I represent to have it suggested that those virtues were not well and widely known. I have, with your permission, taken the opportunity to provide every hon. member with a brochure on the advantages of being a Calgarian which I hope will now be in their mail boxes.

What I would prefer to do is to tell you in just a word or so, about one of the economic problems which today concerns not only my constituents and the province from which I come but which will shortly concern the whole Dominion of Canada; it may even, possibly, make the debates on natural gas of a year ago seem like a Sunday school picnic. I refer to the marketing of Canadian oil. Before I began my speech I was not aware of the setting up of a commission which the Prime Minister has announced, but no doubt the commission can also consider this problem during its deliberations.

[Mr. Smith (Calgary South).]

It is perhaps well known to this house that Canada produces on an average 500,000 barrels of oil a day—I shall be very brief and shall use very few statistics—we could, in fact, produce almost double that amount. Of the amount presently produced we export approximately one-third to the United States. We could, in certain circumstances, capture the vast Montreal outlet which represents some 200,000 barrels a day, but unfortunately economic circumstances such as the low replacement costs of Venezuelan imports, the difference in tariffs and the distance over which the oil has to be transported have combined to make it economically impossible for us to do so at the present time, and we as western producers appreciate this fact.

Recently a committee under the direction of the President of the United States exempted temporarily the area in the Pacific northwest of the United States, into which Canada today exports, an exemption which involves one-third of the total exports and which represents an important part of the life and breath of this western industry. I suggest to you that these exports could be cut off tomorrow. Therefore I am urging as strongly as I can that this government give consideration to the policies I have mentioned, or to any other means it might consider desirable, such as a meeting at top level with United States government officials or their counterparts, to discuss the oil reserves which we have in common today, so that the Canadian western oil industry and the Canadian market is not kept in a continued state of suspense. I am asking no more than that we should have a top level discussion of this problem so that we may know in what general direction we are moving.

I recognize that this is a relatively new problem to confront this very fine new government but I put it on record as one which we will have to consider in the near future.

I, like some of my friends, have experienced this Asian variety of 'flu, and I know I have rambled on long enough and that I have taken just about every privilege which a new member is entitled to take in the circumstances. I do appreciate very much the opportunity which has been given me, as a new member today. I appreciate the courtesy which hon. members have extended to me in this initial offering. I recognize, too, that a future intervention in debate might not be considered with exactly the same courtesy.

I would like to close on this note: Many hon. members will remember a gentleman of the same name as myself who sat before