

Mr. GILLIS: I do not agree.

Mr. MITCHELL: That is a matter of opinion. It is easy to argue here because it is farther away.

Mr. GILLIS: It is a national problem and should be handled nationally.

Mr. MITCHELL: My hon. friend says that it is a national problem. I am not going to start a debate, but I think it is primarily a local problem because the mines are situated in Nova Scotia and the economy of that province revolves around them and other industries.

When they left here I felt that they would consider the establishment of a board. I promised that I would establish it in the shortest possible time, each party to nominate his own representative on the board and I would appoint a chairman if they could not agree. Apparently they turned down what I thought was a constructive suggestion.

By the appointment of Mr. Justice Carroll as a commissioner I set in motion a policy which was successful recently in western Canada in the dispute between the operators there and district 18 of the United Mine Workers of America. I believe that if Mr. Justice Carroll is given the same opportunity that Mr. Justice O'Connor was given in western Canada there is no need for a strike with all its bitterness and harm to the general public in Nova Scotia. I am hopeful at this late date that my good friends the miners in Nova Scotia and the operators will take sound advice so that the mines can be kept producing, particularly during this very cold season of the year.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. J. W.
MACNAUGHT AND SECONDED BY MR. J. P. G.
COURNOYER

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. J. W. MacNAUGHT (Prince): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to move, seconded by the hon. member for Richelieu-Verchères (Mr. Cournoyer):

Resolved that the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both houses of parliament.

In rising to move this resolution I wish first of all to express my sincere thanks to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and to his colleagues for the high honour they have conferred upon me in asking me to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I believe that the people of my constituency and, in fact, the people of Prince Edward Island, will feel in this honouring of their representative some recognition by the Prime Minister and his colleagues of the magnificent part played by the people of Prince Edward Island throughout the war years. I believe also that the Prime Minister is not unmindful of the many happy associations and friendships he formed when he represented the constituency of Prince from 1919 to 1921.

It is an honour that has come to my constituency only once before and an honour that has come to my native province only three times. In 1879 the late Mr. F. D. Brecken, one of the members for Queens, moved the address; in 1899 the late John H. Bell, member for East Prince and afterwards premier of Prince Edward Island, had the same honour, and in 1921 the address was moved by the late James McIsaac, then member for Kings. All these gentlemen discharged their duties with much credit to themselves, and it is interesting to note a comment made by the present Prime Minister in referring to the speech of Mr. McIsaac. I quote:

I am sure that my hon. friend, the member for Kings, P.E.I. (Mr. McIsaac), will look upon this as a sort of field day for Prince Edward Island, inasmuch as he and I, comprising half the representation of that province, have been privileged to be the first speakers in this important debate. That his speech was very creditable to himself and to the island is, I think, the highest compliment that could be paid him. I hope he will not feel that I speak at all ironically when I say that, having listened to his poetical quotations and classical allusions, I believe he might have applied to his own speech the words which he quoted from Byron's "Childe Harold" in reference to the ocean—"that there was considerable music in its roar."

It is a happy omen, I think, that the hon. member for Richelieu-Verchères comes from the city of Sorel, for it is in the giant shipyards of Marine Industries Limited that there is at present being built the car ferry *Abegweit*, the greatest icebreaker in the world. It is with great satisfaction that the people of Prince Edward Island will learn that the car ferry *Abegweit* will be ready for delivery in the early spring. Ever since the S.S. *Charlotte-town* was sunk on her way to the dry dock in Saint John in 1941, the people of Prince Edward Island have had to rely on the services