

*The Address—Mr. McLarty*

Essex West, which I have the honour to represent, regard it as a definite recognition of the importance of that industrial portion of Canada.

This is the second occasion on which we have been honoured by an address from His Excellency. At the time of the last address he had been but recently appointed. We knew him, but we knew him much in the same way as he was known wherever the English language is spoken. Since that time he has visited most parts of Canada and has become acquainted with our people. His intellectual curiosity in every activity that comes within its sweep, is, in the height and swiftness of its quality, peculiarly his own. It has already applied itself to the sympathetic understanding of the problems and possibilities of nearly every one of the varied expressions of Canadian effort between the two great seas. It might be fairly said that Peter now knows the lobster industry; John S. Blenkinsop could now operate a mine; Andrew Amos could drive a harvester; Dick Hannay could now ride the logs down the river, trap a wolf, put out a forest fire or run a paper mill; and Jacqueline Armine, with her staunch understanding and her reassuring smile, could help any troubled Canadian Adam to see his way through.

I believe I but express the unanimous opinion of this house when I say that the closer that acquaintanceship has become the more His Excellency and his gracious lady have risen in the esteem of the people of Canada.

I deem it a very special privilege to have the opportunity of being the first to welcome back to this country the right hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Bennett). It is a matter of congratulation not to him alone, or to this house alone, but to Canada, that he returns with his health fully restored and his accustomed force and vigour unabated. Since His Excellency prorogued this house last June the right hon. gentleman has, shall I say, surrounded the globe.

I believe it might be fairly said of him, as it was once said of the great Ulysses:

Much have I seen and known, cities of men,  
Manners, climates, councils, governments;  
Myself not least but honoured of them all.

May I suggest, sir, that it is a matter for gratification, in which the right hon. gentleman will share, that under the influence and direction of a wise and benign government Canada is rapidly returning to prosperity.

In moving this resolution this afternoon I feel that I have a simpler and more congenial as well as an easier task than fell to the lot

[Mr. McLarty.]

of those who have moved similar motions for some years past. I am inclined to think that when they referred to the progress and prosperity of the country they must have felt that they were discussing something hoped for but unseen. There is ample evidence on all sides to-day that we are emerging from the forest of depression. It would be unfair to suggest that the pathway is not obstructed by some entangling underbrush, but at least we have left the forest behind us.

The fact of this returning prosperity is evidenced everywhere. The prices of our primary products are constantly and consistently rising; the basic industry of agriculture, apart from those exigencies of nature which neither man nor government can control, is in a better position to be operated profitably than at any time during the last six years. The pulp and paper industry is producing at an unprecedented rate, and while the price of that commodity has not responded to the general upturn in demand, that can be expected within a reasonable time. The fishing industry is enjoying a better year than it has had for some time. The lumbering industry is pulsating with new life. The mining industry has in the last year contributed more to our national wealth than in any other year in our history. The manufacturing industry, the largest single contributor to our national wealth, contributed last year over \$1,400,000,000, the largest since 1929.

And, sir, I believe that the stimulation of our international trade has been the greatest contributory factor in this general upturn of economic conditions. No matter how critical anyone may be of this government, he will at least admit that they have gone about the business of stimulating that trade with great enthusiasm and high ability. Since their coming into office they have concluded the trade agreement with the United States, they have concluded an agreement with Japan, they have completed a temporary agreement with Germany, they have secured a cancellation of the Soviet order of 1931 prohibiting imports from this country and the chartering of Canadian vessels. It was announced in the speech from the throne that the Minister of Trade and Commerce is now in active negotiations with our sister commonwealths of New Zealand and Australia, and I believe it will be welcome news to this house that negotiations have reached a point where the definite principles underlying the trade agreement with the United Kingdom have been settled and the agreement will be laid before us for consideration before the present session is concluded.