

confidence in my leaders, it is for me a pleasure and an honour to move the motion of which you have been given notice.

Mr. CHARLES E. HANNA (West Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to second the resolution that an Address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor General, offering the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament.

And, Mr. Speaker, in doing so, may I crave the indulgence of the House in the few remarks I shall make? I am a novice to parliamentary life, and as all hon. members of this House have at one time or another been new members of the House, may I throw myself on their mercy, asking their sympathetic memory in my own behalf.

I recognize that the honour shown me in granting me this privilege to-day is in no way a personal one, but a very direct tribute to my constituency and the people I represent, and a fine courtesy from the House to a new member. The riding of West Hastings, which has entrusted me with its responsibilities in this honoured House, is neither a small nor an unimportant one. It is one of the few so-called rural ridings of this province which did not recede in population in the years 1911 to 1921, but actually recorded a considerable increase in population. It is a riding which, with its sister riding of East Hastings, has a long and honourable history in the annals of Upper Canada. Drawing a great part of its original settlement from the devoted group of exiled patriots, the United Empire Loyalists, it received in later colonization large groups of excellent farming stock from the Old Land, and to-day presents a prosperous, steady development, well balanced as between agricultural and industrial, and reflecting a solid growth in education, in expansion and in community spirit, founded on a homogeneous population. It has given to Canada one of her most revered and honoured Prime Ministers in Sir Mackenzie Bowell, and has sent forth to literary fame and a seat in the Mother of Parliaments, Sir Gilbert Parker.

At the present time, when the scarcity of free land and the pioneer effort required for the settlement of available land in northern Ontario and Quebec and the more remote districts of the prairies dampens the ardour of the immigrant, I may be forgiven a reference to the development of Hastings county. Much

[Sir Eugene Fiset.]

of our land was naturally neither rich nor productive; in fact, many stretches of our northern areas are still wild, rugged and unbroken. Yet the practice of thrift, steady if small returns, and intensified farming with special concentration on dairying, have made Hastings a county of pleasant, productive farms and prosperous homes. Perhaps no great over-night fortunes have been made, perhaps no booms have been recorded; but the sturdy, steady growth of this farming population, who are providing themselves with all moderate comforts, educating their children and sending them forth in Canada's development, affords, I think, an example not unworthy of note in Canada to-day.

According to the 1921 census, the 5,597 farms in the county of Hastings comprised a total acreage of 796,787. The value of these farm lands totalled \$12,786,065; buildings \$9,718,439; implements \$4,065,489; live stock \$5,969,413. His Excellency in the gracious speech just delivered has made reference to the probability of this House evolving some system of relief from the heavy ocean freight charges, against which Canadian export trade must struggle. Might I mention particularly the handicap imposed on stock farming, by this item? When I mention that on these farms in Hastings there were over 80,000 head of cattle, over 34,000 head of sheep and some 40,000 head of swine, while the stock sold yielded almost two million dollars, it will be realized that the relief suggested will not be confined to western Canada alone. Commenting on this item may I also draw attention to the desirability of greater refrigeration accommodation on all boats engaged in our ocean carrying trade. Animal products in my county in this year brought over \$3,000,000, and I am confident that there, as in all rural Ontario, this amount could be greatly increased if we were only assured of wider markets.

The efforts of the Department of Agriculture to obtain a better standardization of agricultural produce will be warmly supported in Hastings. It is in dairy produce particularly that we are interested. There are over seventy dairy factories in the county, with an output running over two million dollars per annum. Butter produced in 1923 totalled 1,377,129 pounds, and cheese 7,712,034 pounds. These figures will illustrate to what great extent the prosperity of the district is dependent on the maintenance of a good export trade. I am confident that the encouraging messages of trade consolidation and expansion mentioned in the Address will find hearty support throughout mixed farming circles in Canada.