

*The Address—Mr. J. B. Hamilton*

1935. I think we can discharge our duty and see that this place retains its prestige, not only among its members but among the people.

The second point, as I mentioned, deals with old age pensioners, the sick, the disabled and so on. I do not need to go over in full what has been done for them during the previous administration. I think the voting of those groups clearly indicates what had been done for them. The hon. member for Assiniboia touched briefly on what might be expected for these people under an administration which he might head at some time.

I do not think we need to chronicle every item in the speech from the throne, but it was mentioned in this house that a study was being made of the serious situation facing the older people because of inflation and there was also an indication of a study of the program in the United States. We may not all agree with that program but I believe we can look forward to an attempt by this administration to remove from the ballot-catching category the problem of payments for the aged, the infirm and the sick. I am hoping it will be an achievement of this administration that it will not be a case of running up to each election with each party attempting to see just how many votes it can get by a specific appeal to a special group of people.

Next we come to the provinces and although I heard it mentioned that there was nothing in the speech about them I find there are words in the speech from the throne dealing with their improved position as a result of meetings held over the last few months. There has been a previous indication of further meetings along this line.

When we talk about education, as did the hon. member for Assiniboia, we should note that there has been no restriction made on how the money which is being given to the provinces is to be spent. If the federal government is in a position to give them a better deal, then I am sure we can trust the premiers of the various provinces to see that those items which need help most will get this money. The present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Churchill) not too long ago gave one of the finest speeches I have ever heard in this house and at that time he talked about the dominion provincial conference being the country's twelfth government. He pointed out that it was only through this instrument of the provinces coming to Ottawa that a true opposition could be expressed to the policies of the federal administration.

Let me say that I hope that that type of thinking is no longer required. I think we have evidence that it is no longer required.

We have seen the special assistance given to the maritimes; we have seen a Conservative prime minister of Canada able to sit down with the C.C.F. premier of a province and work out a deal which will give that province the South Saskatchewan dam, something that had been promised by previous administrations for the last 30 years without result.

This is an indication that the "twelfth parliament" will no longer be required, an indication that people will be able to sit around a conference table in an amicable manner and work out the transactions necessary to see that many of the problems raised by the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Argue) are solved.

What about foreign affairs? They are mentioned in the speech from the throne, and I refer in particular to the visit of the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the visit of the President of the United States. What does this indicate? It seems to me that under this administration we can look forward to a period of much closer relationship between government and government. May I say that I hope the day of the personality cult in connection with the administration of our foreign affairs is over and that we will have the direct approach of government to government and head of state to head of state. As long as these continuing negotiations take place I am sure we can look forward to better relations throughout the world.

We have heard the Prime Minister say that he feels we should have an opportunity to express our feelings about a summit conference. It is no longer the case of one or two nations deciding in a bilateral or, sometimes, in a unilateral manner who should take part in these discussions.

Now we get down to trade. There was an indication in the speech from the throne that a commonwealth trade conference will be convened. We have had an indication that an aggressive sales policy is to be undertaken. I believe that this will go a long way toward solving the problems of unemployment.

We have been accused of not saying anything about unemployment. I should like hon. members to listen to what the Right Hon. Mr. St. Laurent said back on January 10, 1955, when we had some signs of a real recession. This is what he said at a time when there were many speeches made dealing with unemployment:

There is some unemployment in Canada. There has been some unemployment in Canada every year. At the opening of every session of the Canadian parliament for the last three or four years there has been considerable anxiety over the kind and extent of unemployment in Canada. However, because of the resources, material and human, to which the hon. gentleman paid tribute, that situation has eased as the season advanced, and there is reason to expect that it will do so again.