

*South Saskatchewan River*

on unemployment insurance provided by the federal authorities.

Saskatchewan's experience is that governments cannot provide the necessary risk capital in speculative enterprise. Governments cannot, in the interests of their people and in the interests of their own survival, engage in the development of natural resources which carries with it a speculative element that in most cases not only denies any profit but denies any return. I think it was in December that the premier of Saskatchewan, realizing the impossibility of developing our natural resources under government ownership, visited the United States in an endeavour to induce private enterprise to invest money in Saskatchewan for development purposes. If socialism can assure the development of our natural resources, it is strange that when the natural resources of Saskatchewan have not been developed, as they are not being developed in Saskatchewan, the remedy should consist in less socialism rather than more.

I think it can properly be said that the experience of Saskatchewan has been that government cannot develop the resources of the country but that the energizing hormone of personal incentive is needed to that end. It is the belief of the Progressive Conservative party, sir, that what the state can do is to provide opportunity for private enterprise to risk the speculative capital that is so necessary if our resources in the north are to be developed. We in this party, in our declaration of policy, set forth our ideas in connection with the development of our natural resources. It explains the stand that this party takes respecting national works such as development of the dam and the expansion of irrigation in Saskatchewan and generally throughout western Canada where needed. Our policy reads as follows:

Opportunity Through Development of Natural Resources

Conservation and development of our vast natural resources and the establishment of maximum industrial production will create opportunity for our youth to employ their education and ability and halt the exodus of Canadians seeking opportunity elsewhere.

The development of our natural resources upon the basis that they shall be processed in Canada will provide maximum employment and enable us to bring into Canada selected immigrants who will increase and give stability to our domestic market.

With respect to our natural resources, our policy is:

1. In co-operation with the provinces to assist in the conservation and development of our natural resources and as one of the means to that end to establish a national development advisory council.

2. To institute in co-operation with the provinces a vigorous program of water conservation, reforestation, power development, flood control, comprehensive irrigation and drainage schemes for the reclamation of unproductive lands.

3. To establish a permanent program of maritime marshland reclamation.

9. To assist in the establishment of industry in all parts of Canada to provide a more balanced employment in all sections of the country.

The Minister of Agriculture indicated in one of his speeches what would be the result should that great project in Saskatchewan be completed. He showed that irrigation is necessary in that area known as the Palliser Triangle, and the productive portions of Saskatchewan and some of Alberta are in that area.

Ever since 1852, when the Palliser expedition crossed western Canada, it has been realized that it is an area subject to recurrent drought. As an aside, I may say that a man whom I knew very well, Mr. John Moberly, in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, died a few years ago when he was close to one hundred years of age. He was the last survivor of the Palliser expedition which he accompanied as water boy. He often referred to the fact that, when the expedition was crossing through what is now southern Saskatchewan and Alberta, there were times when the head of the expedition felt that, with the drought conditions then prevailing, there was little hope of the expedition ever being able to arrive at the mountains, which were their destination.

In many sections of this country an irrigation policy is necessary. Alberta has proven the benefits of irrigation. Yet, in Canada as a whole, there are only 750,000 acres of land under irrigation as compared with 28 million acres in the United States and 8 million acres in Russia. It has been estimated that in western Canada alone there are 3 million acres of land that require irrigation. Part of that acreage is in Saskatchewan in the area near the site of the proposed dam between Elbow and Outlook. Within 125 miles of that particular location fifty-three per cent of the population of our province is located.

The people of Saskatchewan are demanding that this work be undertaken and not held out from time to time as a promise. It is demanded that this parliament act now, before dissolution. Organizations throughout the province of Saskatchewan have been established and representations to that end have been made. Some two years ago, possibly longer, the South Saskatchewan River Development Association was set up with offices at Moose Jaw. Recently this organization, demanding action now, pointed out the situation in regard to the necessity for this irrigation development being undertaken immediately. I can do no better than to quote from one or two of the submissions made by this organization which, in fact, represent the viewpoint of the Progressive Conserva-