

The Address—Mr. R. Gauthier

This area, almost isolated in the centre of the province of Quebec, needs only adequate port, rail and air facilities to become an integral part of the industrial system of the whole country.

Some private companies were soon aware of its economic value and took the necessary steps to solve that same transportation problem to their advantage and for the benefit of our population. However, the government must do the same thing to allow other industries to establish themselves along the shores of the Saguenay river and, I repeat, the Canadian nation will benefit just as much from such improvements as will the population of the county of Chicoutimi.

I would not like to give my colleagues the impression that I ignore the identical needs of other parts of the country. It is obvious that certain parts of Canada have more urgent needs than others but it is also obvious that there are needs everywhere since we are, I would say, on the threshold of our economic development.

We are therefore pleased to see that everyone expects the federal government to give a free hand to industrial growth.

Even if the economic requirements of the whole country absorb a large slice of federal resources, the government should nevertheless seriously consider, as promised, cutting down taxes and increasing social benefits, not only old age pensions which, in spite of a slight increase, are still inadequate and should have been raised to at least \$60.00 per month, from age 60 for people in need, and from age 65 for all others. I am surprised that there was no mention whatever of family allowances, which should be materially increased. Is it because they would mostly benefit Quebec people? It is up to the government to answer that question and to bring an adequate remedy.

The Minister of Labour (Mr. Starr) has lately launched a campaign for winter employment, but what does the government intend to do to help the unemployed that we are going to have in great numbers in my riding as a result of the interruption of logging operations, since the economy of our region depends on two great and important industries, aluminum and lumber, the latter remaining the most important and most sizeable. It is certainly surprising that the government seems to ignore the necessity of public works to take care of unemployment. It is

the government's duty to promote full employment, to increase benefits as much as is feasible, and to give such assistance to the unemployed as long as they cannot get work.

The influx of new industries to Canada has undoubtedly the effect of creating new jobs which partially solve the unemployment problem and social insecurity. But this is not enough for social security, and I respectfully urge the government to pay particular attention to the jobless, and especially to the lumberjacks who make up a great part of the population of my riding and who, like thousands of lumberjacks all over the country, are now suffering hardship not only through a slackening of this industry, but because of complete shutdowns in logging operations.

The unemployment insurance act does not sufficiently protect this class of workers who, unlike city workers, cannot hunt for a new job in other industries without being almost forced to expatriate themselves.

The unemployment periods in lumber industry are much longer than in most other industries.

At this time, the problem is serious, and our thousands of lumberjacks are anguished because they have no hope of finding the job they absolutely need to meet the needs of their families during the winter months. Our unemployed are not asking for charity. They want jobs. Let them be given the opportunity and, should that not come to pass, I urge the government to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act so as to insure greater social protection to this class of workers by reducing the waiting period.

In newly opened areas such as ours, bush workers and farmers are the pioneers of the twentieth century, and their presence in these areas which will eventually be economically developed is essential to future development.

We must therefore take all necessary steps to allow these pioneers to remain on their farms. If, to that end and to insure the lumber industry the manpower it requires, we must amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, we should not hesitate in adopting such legislation.

I am proud to pay here a special tribute to the settlers of my constituency and of the country as a whole since these men and women are part of the very elite of our great country.

My time being limited, I will only make a passing reference to the fact, but I would like to remind you that the farmer is a