

*The Address—Mr. Ashbourne*

more apparent, I have faith and confidence that from the people of Canada, and from their representatives in this parliament and other assemblies, we shall receive the utmost consideration commensurate with the ability of this dominion to satisfy the needs of Newfoundland as they may arise.

I wish to voice my warm appreciation of the words of welcome contained in the speech from the throne with regard to the advent of Newfoundlanders in this parliament, and to place on record my own high regard for that spirit of friendliness, harmony and good will so pleasantly manifested since the beginning of this session. We in Newfoundland have not been unaccustomed to the storms which have swept our province as well as other provinces represented here. We have felt the tremor of the earthquake. We have been shaken, as it were, by convulsions. Yet, undaunted, we have carried on as well as we could. When the great depressions struck our economic structure we were unfortunately not able, unaided, to carry on alone. For a time we were governed by the commission of government, which I believe did a good job as a whole in Newfoundland. But it was not a democratic form of government; while at the time it seemed to be a good expedient, it was only to be expected that the people of Newfoundland would want responsible government. Today we have responsible government, not on our own but backed up with the resources of the great Dominion of Canada.

Newfoundland is a country of proverbial beauty. We have our majestic headlands, some of them rising in sheer grandeur hundreds of feet, and down the steep slopes come tumbling the waterfalls. I have not yet had the privilege of viewing the Grand Falls of Labrador. I have not yet visited Labrador although I have the honour to represent that great area. But it will be my duty and privilege some day to visit that great country. We know something of the tremendous assets to be found in Labrador, of the rich mines and of the virgin forests which are hers. In imagination we look back to the sight which must have met the eyes of John Cabot when, on the far-away day, coming to the shores of Newfoundland, he and his fellow voyageurs exclaimed, "Buena vista!" I may say that the Secretary of State (Mr. Bradley) resides in Bonavista and represents that historic district as well as the district of Twillingate.

I believe there is a widespread belief that Newfoundland is a land of fogs and ice, but that is not correct. Because of the Arctic current, which flows from the north down

toward the gulf stream, a certain amount of fog is naturally generated. But I can assure hon. members that the climate of Newfoundland as a whole is exceptionally good. I might say that right here in this House of Commons I should like to feel some of those sea breezes that I have felt in the past. I mention the climate of Newfoundland because I realize what a tremendous asset it is to us. To those people who want to get away from the sweltering heat of the city in the summertime I would extend an invitation to come down and enjoy the climate of Newfoundland. We have our beautiful days of sunshine and nights that are cool, so that one can lie down and have a decent rest. We in Newfoundland realize that in our climate we have an attraction which I hope will bring many tourists to our shores.

We have as well the salmon fishing about which a good many hon. members know. My good friend the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. Higgins) will be able to tell you more about that attraction. I have never yet had the thrill of catching a salmon. Now that I am a member of the House of Commons I do not know whether I shall have the time to go salmon fishing. Up to the present time my life has been so crowded that I have not been able to indulge in that sport. I mention it, however, because there may be some who would like to come down and enjoy the salmon fishing in Newfoundland.

It is true that we have some fog, particularly at certain periods of the year, especially in the spring. Later on I shall be making requisitions to the government for some fog alarms and also for some lighthouses, which are most necessary for the people residing in the districts I have the honour to represent. As they go north in quest of the harvests of the deep, these fishermen are oftentimes impeded by fog in the spring of the year. I feel sure that my request for a certain number of fog alarms and lighthouses will not fall on deaf ears, and that the people of Canada will see that these are provided for our fishermen. We know these men who are seeking to provide food for the people of the world will be helped in their endeavours, and I can assure the house that it will be highly appreciated by them.

Newfoundland's strategic position, being so to speak the Gibraltar of the North American continent, is well known. I am happy that our lot is now cast with the rest of the people of Canada, and that this dominion is now rounded out by the inclusion of Newfoundland. We are primarily a fishing country. The prolific cod fisheries of Newfound-