

*The Address—Mr. Castleden*

I have the honour, Mr. Speaker, to represent a constituency in the eastern part of Saskatchewan second to none in Canada. The people of that constituency come from many different countries of the world. Despite that fact, we live together there as one family. We share our troubles; we share our joys; and we work in unity together. During the depression we suffered, and resolved to do something to prevent the recurrence of such conditions. When the war came many of our young men enlisted. Many never returned. Some, who did not return, had known very little in their lives, up to 1940, except poverty, relief and unemployment.

During and since the war we have had a few years of security and we have been able to expand some of our holdings. We have been blessed with fairly good crops. The people cleared off their debts, paying every cent they could. They bought farm equipment. These people have been able to live together because they have exercised the principles of tolerance; and they are Canadians first.

They appreciate the program put out by a young man who, I believe, should be honoured in this House of Commons for the work he is doing for Canadians. I refer to Mr. John Fisher, who makes his reports on the C.B.C. The work that man is doing toward promoting unity and understanding among Canadians is certainly in great contrast with some of the things we sometimes see in our political life here, those things which tend to separate Canada and prevent her becoming a great nation.

**Mr. Brooks:** A New Brunswicker.

**Mr. Castleden:** I care not from what province he comes; he is doing a great service for Canada.

In my constituency we recognize the right of the people to freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from fear and freedom from want. They work together. We may differ in our religious and political beliefs; but we respect the rights of all people to have their beliefs. There is no padlock law; there is no racial or religious intolerance. Our religious freedom is real.

The centre of that constituency is a city of about 7,000 people. A recent survey shows that it is growing and expanding, and also shows that among the people are twenty-three different religious denominations. But they work together in freedom, without fear of persecution, and without scorn of their fellow men. The people in the town work with the people in the rural community. If trouble comes in one section, they help each other. They realize that they depend one upon the

other for their existence and welfare. They know that their prosperity depends one upon the other.

Over two hundred new houses have been built lately in Yorkton, but this does not begin to meet the housing problem. I would say this about that government housing program, that while they are producing houses in Yorkton, the cost of those houses is so high that it fails to relieve the requirements of those in the lower-income brackets who need housing accommodation most. Many of the people who would like to go into those houses find that the regulations and requirements of income are so high that they cannot undertake either to rent or to purchase them.

Even less fortunate are the people in another town in my constituency, the town of Kamsack, where, on account of certain regulations under which the housing program of this government is being operated, the big business firms in Winnipeg who decide how much money will be lent for the construction of houses have determined that this town is not a good risk—or have given some other reasons. Apparently they are afraid they might not get all their money back, with the result that veterans and others living in that community are unable to have even those advantages of the housing scheme the government is now putting forward.

The people in that community feel the need of an amendment to the National Housing Act to make it possible for a group of people to organize themselves co-operatively for the purpose of building their own houses for their own use. I do not know why the National Housing Act prevents such action among people who really need houses. These loans must be made available to the co-operative corporations on the same terms as such loans are made available to the limited dividend housing corporations, notwithstanding the fact that, upon repayment of the loans, titles to such houses may pass directly or indirectly to the lessee.

A number of years ago I had the pleasure of visiting Nova Scotia. Down in Cape Breton island I watched the development of the best housing program I have seen in Canada. I saw people who were workers in steel plants and in mines working together in co-operative groups to establish homes for themselves. A system was established there whereby such people working co-operatively could get money at about three per cent. These workers, previously condemned to live in company houses without sanitation or modern conveniences, had planned through the years to build these homes. They built themselves lovely six-roomed and seven-roomed homes, fully modern, well spaced, well constructed; they allowed plenty of playground space and