

St. Lawrence, I am quite sure that the people out there would rest more easily at night. The channel being deepened and the material dredged being piled on the sides, the dikes could be constructed without the use of earth from farm lands.

Two years ago the hon. member for Fraser Valley raised another point with reference to the Canadian Pacific railway. There is a railway bridge crossing the river at the town of Mission, and he charged that the Canadian Pacific were dumping stones over the bridge to protect the abutments and the bridge piers against spring flooding. The hon. member for Fraser Valley pointed out, as did the engineers, that such a course was wrong, because any additional obstruction in the river, such as these rocks, meant a backing up of water and the additional silting of the stream, with a resultant increase in deposit in the river bed.

The wise thing was to dredge the centre channel deeper to let the river run there rather than to build up obstructions which aggravated the conditions, and how right the hon. member was has been proved by the fact that the bridge was carried away and that the worst of the flooding occurred just above the Mission bridge, in the Matsqui and Hatzic areas.

A third point the hon. member raised about four weeks ago in this house was the matter of the two railways escaping their rightful responsibility as far as these dikes were concerned. The dikes are paid for by a substantial tax levied on all farmers who are protected by these dikes, but both the Canadian National Railways—our railway—and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have avoided the payment of the tax. They have declined to pay any diking tax despite the fact that their lines run behind the dikes.

Both railways claimed that their lines were above the flood level. Today, however, we see that both railways are cut off, and the current estimate is that it will cost the Canadian National Railways \$7,000,000 to replace their line of railway through the flooded area, and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is faced with an expenditure of at least \$1,000,000. If any evidence were needed as to whether these lines are above or below the flood level, hon. members need only go into the reading room in this house and look at the Vancouver newspapers, and they will see many pictures of railway lines in the flooded area that will convince them.

The government has a responsibility henceforth, at least so far as the Canadian National Railways are concerned, to see that our railway system pays its fair share of the diking tax.

Having said these things, I wish, on behalf of the people of British Columbia, to say a word of strong commendation of the very fine way in which the federal agencies in British Columbia pitched into the battle. The army, the air force and the navy, all three services, have done a magnificent job which has won the admiration of all the people of British Columbia. Each has been excellent in its own way. It shows clearly to some people, who were very much against military establishments, the value to a country, even in peacetime, of having a well disciplined, well organized establishment, with first-class machinery at its command.

The way in which the navy, from Esquimalt, went up the river with all ships it could muster for the relief of the people, to remove them and their livestock, and to help in building up the dikes; the way in which the army and the reserve army did their bit; the contribution which the air force made in flying sandbags and relief supplies for the people of the flooded areas, have filled the people of British Columbia with admiration. They are extremely proud of our armed services, and I am quite sure that, in the years which lie ahead, many people, remembering this, will advocate the maintenance of such services for internal emergencies as well as in any external crisis which may arise during war.

The public works engineers centred in New Westminster, under the district engineer, Mr. Morton, have rendered an exceptional service. They had the engineering know-how, and, more than that, they have had fortunately a fair amount of equipment. The hon. member for New Westminster mentioned the great services rendered by the civilians. There were some days during which 25,000 civilians from Vancouver were on the scene doing all they could, filling sandbags, and doing their best to help their farmer neighbours who were in such distress.

The people of British Columbia have been exceedingly pleased with the immediate offer of assistance made by the government through the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). The offer to share in immediate relief costs, 50 per cent by the federal government and 50 per cent by the provincial government, was most gratifying. Better still was the offer of 75 per cent federal to 25 per cent provincial in the building of new and proper dikes and pumping systems.

This flood has taught the people of British Columbia one lesson, namely, that the only good dikes are dikes of the type built in Holland—a broad dike with a double roadbed on top. These are the British Columbia dikes that held best because, when the breaks