

*The Budget—Mr. Carroll*

the people who can talk about the decentralization of industry, because if they came into power they are the only people who would put into effect the methods by which industry could be decentralized. I am not criticizing them for that at all; I have nothing at all to say about it.

But when I hear a good Liberal or a good Conservative, or a bad Liberal or a bad Conservative, talking about decentralization of industry in this country, then I say they are talking against their own better judgment, and talking in favour of a thing they would not dare talk about outside the political realm.

How can this thing be brought about? At the present time and under our present conditions in Canada, it is just as well to talk about striking the rock of Gibraltar and knocking it into the sea with a pebble as it is for this government to talk about the decentralization of industry in Canada. Why? All industries in Canada are within the jurisdiction of local legislatures; and until the dominion government, either on account of war or for some other reason or because of the coming to power of the C.C.F., takes that power, there will be no way of decentralizing industry.

It is said that a good friend in Ontario—I believe it was the premier, who is a splendid type of Canadian—made a statement at a dominion-provincial conference to the effect that it would be a good thing if that conference, as part of its work, would consider ways and means of bringing about a more evenly distributed industrial development. Well, about two weeks after Mr. Frost made that statement there was sent abroad in this country, to the United States and to England a booklet showing an ambitious program of the Ontario government. No one blames them for that. It indicated what marvellous industries they have in that province, what marvellous opportunities there were for new industries, and stood as an invitation to all and sundry who wanted to start new industries to do so in Ontario.

I do not know whether the premier of Quebec has made comment about decentralization of industry; but, whether he did or not, certainly they are not showing much effort along that line in that province, because today they are advertising to the world their waterpower facilities, their labour and everything else they have, in order to get new industries. So much for that.

We have a splendid steel industry in Sydney, with ramifications throughout the country. Up until four or five years ago it is my humble opinion that that industry was not giving the service to this country it should have been giving, by way of fabrication of small steelware and the like. I

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believe at the present time however that the management of that industry, presided over by Mr. Forsyth, who is an ambitious Canadian, a progressive Canadian, and a Canadian who wants to do the best for Nova Scotia and the industry with which he is connected, will bring about a condition whereby we may expect better things. Today and for the last year they have had all the orders for raw steel they wanted, and all they could fill. I noticed some time ago, in a Canadian Press dispatch, where the president of that organization had said that plans were under consideration for the expansion of finished steel products facilities, and made the further statement that such plans required a lot of technical study before one could talk in terms of specific undertakings. It is too bad those technical studies were not made ten or fifteen years ago, rather than at this late date. Personally however I have absolute confidence in the Dominion Steel Corporation of today, so far as its management is concerned. I know they will do all they can to bring to the forefront and to improve that steel industry. An organization representing the steel workers and the coal miners came to see the government some time ago and I hope pointed out to the government some of the things that might be done in the way of fabrication of steel by the Dominion Steel Corporation.

A day or so ago I had something to say in this house about the establishment of a steel plant upon the shores of Canso strait. After I went out of the house a friend of mine, not from Nova Scotia, said, "Bill, you must be crazy." I said, "I don't know, I think perhaps I have always been crazy." As an example of my insanity he referred to my suggestion to establish a steel mill on the shores of Canso strait. I was not crazy, although it may be a dream. I am not asking the government to build this steel plant; all I am asking is that they give it the same assistance that they gave to other steel plants in the basic stages. Between Point Tupper, the terminus of the Canadian National Railways, and Port Hawkesbury there is in my humble opinion—I am not an industrialist, I am not the son of an industrialist nor am I the father of an industrialist—the finest site for a steel mill that can be found in Canada, if not on the continent.

Why do I say that? The strait of Canso is 600 miles from Seven Islands, which is the terminus of the railroad from the Ungava iron ore field. That is over 750 miles from Montreal, and as you go along the St. Lawrence it is further still. Unless the St. Lawrence waterway is built overnight I would think that the iron ore boats from Seven Islands to Montreal or further up will have