

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Third Session — Twelfth Legislature
11th Day

Thursday, February 24, 1955

The House met at three o'clock p.m.

DEBATE ON ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

The House resumed, from Wednesday, February 23, 1955, the adjourned debate on the proposed Motion of Mr. Dewhurst for the Address-in-Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Hon. I.C. Nollet (Minister of Agriculture): — Mr. Speaker, having paid the usual complimentary respects to the mover and seconder of the Address, and having also complimented the hon. Leader of the Opposition, it is not necessary for me to re-state the commendations made, yesterday afternoon, when I adjourned the debate.

The Speech from the throne mentions that the 1954 crop was one of the most disappointing experienced in the history of Saskatchewan. The one significant feature in regard to the effects of this crop failure was the fact that it has come after a series of excellent crops. We had three unprecedented crops in Saskatchewan prior to 1954; in fact, in 1952, we produced 435 million bushels of wheat in this province, which is equal to a normal crop produced, in an average year, in the Dominion of Canada; and that as a result of one crop failure economic conditions should deteriorate so rapidly in this province, is indicative of the important place at agriculture holds in the economy of our province, and the great need of endeavouring to overcome the many natural hazards that affect our agriculture, but more particularly, to stabilize the economic aspects of our basic industry.

Mr. Speaker, I do not, as a rule, wish to make reference to remarks or statements made by members of this Assembly. I cannot help, though, but make some reference to the statements made by the hon. member for Arm River (Mr. Danielson), yesterday. He made reference to, or commented on, the fact that a certain Mr. Rawluk was now working for the Federal Government. He expressed the hope, I think, that this young man would make a success in life. The hon. member can be assured that we all wish that the gentleman in question will make a success in life. However, he then posed the question, saying, "How did this young man get into the mess he was in?" He apparently asked the question of the House and then proceeded to answer himself. I think he should have directed that question to the young man himself, or, in the alternative, to the former Leader of the Opposition in this Legislature, Mr. Tucker, as he could tell him better why this young man got into difficulties. He referred to the fact that it was mentioned in this House that the young man in question now has a job with the P.F.R.A., and he said that mention of it was 'sheer dirt-throwing'. He forgets that this Assembly sat here, I think for two or three or four weeks, and listened to a whole lot of dirt emanating from that side of the House. I do not think that all people, not even perhaps this young man's relatives, will concur in upholding this young man, to the extent

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he has been, as a model of perfection, in this Legislature. The hon. member closed by saying that this matter should be dropped. I said, last year, that is not to be dropped, and I hope that it will be dropped. The people of this province have heard enough about this particular episode.

Mr. Loptson (Saltcoats): — You fellows brought it up.

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make some reference, and again with reluctance, to some of the statements made by the hon. member for Meadow Lake (Mr. Dunfield), and to comment on the quotations made in an editorial in the 'Leader-Post' on February 19th, in which he stated that employees of the Government in northern Saskatchewan were similar to "little Caesars, bloated with power and personal ego", and that the spirit of compulsion is still the basis of the programme of this Government in northern Saskatchewan. And the Liberal press went on to depict the situation in a cartoon captioned "C.C.F. trapped", in which they seemed to indicate that the people of the north were caught in the steel jaws of C.C.F. totalitarianism, bureaucracy, and what have you.

Mr. McDonald (Leader of the Opposition): — You sure hit it there.

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — All I have to say to the hon. members opposite is: listen, my friends, and you shall hear about some facts that will give you no cheer. In all kindness, Mr. Speaker, I must say to the hon. member that it is unfortunate that his capacity to reason and see things in their true light is exceeded by his desire to make the most unworthy kind of political capital. This also goes for the Leader-Post, which talks so fluently about the duties and responsibilities of the press.

The Department of Agriculture has an agricultural representative in northern Saskatchewan, and, by the way, there was never any agricultural assistance and advice given to the natives of the north until this administration came into power. This particular gentleman is the most devoted public servant, dedicated to the task of helping the native people of the north to improve their living standards; and the work already accomplished by this agricultural representative is greatly appreciated by the people of northern Saskatchewan.

I would like to give the House some indication of the success that the ag-rep. in the north has had in the formation of 4-H clubs, Mr. Speaker, bringing to the north and new concept in the new ideal for the young people of that country. As the House knows, club members are pledged. They pledge their heads to clearer thinking, their hearts to greater loyalty, their hands to larger service and their health to better living for their home, their club, their community and their country. High ideals, I would say, Mr. Speaker. Since we have had the ag-rep. in the north he has organized eleven 4-H Clubs, with 345 members, nine garden clubs and three potato clubs, located at various places in the north — Beauval, Ile a la Crosse, Buffalo Narrows, Snake Lake, Cumberland House and Pelican Portage, Sturgeon Landing, Montreal Lake, etc. I should mention, too, that for the first time we were able to take some of the outstanding boys and girls from those clubs to Prince Albert, paying their air transportation, to the Prince Albert Fair, where they could engage in competition with the boys and girls from southern Saskatchewan.

The projects that are being undertaken of are infinite help to the people of the north, recognizing as we do the limitations on food production and the increasing population problem we have in northern Saskatchewan.

In addition to the extension work carried on, besides 4-H club activities, pasture improvement projects at Buffalo Narrows have been established in the amount of nearly \$700 by the Department, and vegetable and fruit-growers' co-operatives have been established at Ile a la Crosse at an expense of over \$3,000 to the Department. A livestock project was initiated, last year, at Snake Lake. For the first time, we brought into Snake Lake five head of cattle by Cat. train — five heifers and one bull, Mr. Speaker, and you can be sure I made certain that it would be a Aberdeen Angus bull, knowing that this particular breed will withstand the severe climatic conditions of the north probably better than any other breed. I thought, Mr. Speaker, it would be advisable to put in a little 'plug' for a breed that has not enjoyed too much popularity in Saskatchewan.

In behalf of garden improvement and development projects at Portage La Loche, we have paid to these people and assisted them in an amount of well over \$3,000. All of these activities added together, Mr. Speaker, do add up to a different type of approach and the solution to the difficult problems of the native people of northern Saskatchewan.

The ag-rep. for the north has sent the club leaders what he terms the 'Northern 4-H Club Newsletter'. Many of the club leaders contribute to this newsletter, and the best possible answer to the statements made by the hon. member from Meadow Lake is to quote some extracts from the comments made by the club leaders in the different parts of northern Saskatchewan. He and the people of this province can then determine whether or not government employees in that area are arrogant Caesars, who have no regard for human rights and human liberties and human freedom and what have you. I want to say that I know of no government employee in northern Saskatchewan who isn't devoted to the uplifting and the well-being of the natives; and their chief problem in doing so is largely due to the adverse influence of the traders and the bootleggers who have held sway in northern Saskatchewan throughout the years. They are the ones, who have created the adverse propaganda referred to, and exaggerated by, the hon. member from Meadow Lake.

To get back to club activities, Mr. Speaker: it is mentioned in the newsletter that the big activity in the majority of the clubs, this winter, is a public-speaking competition. Most of the clubs — Green Lake, Beauval, Buffalo Narrows, Snake Lake, Meadow Lake, Montreal Lake and Montreal Lake Indian Reserve, Pelican Portage — have entered into this competition. A shield and six medals have been kindly donated by the Department of Co-operation for the competition, and this will be an annual affair. Does this sound like 'strutting Caesars', 'arrogant Caesars', bent on power?

Speaking of some of the comments made by the club leaders, here is a typical one:

"Bill Harrison, Club Leader for the Lakeside Club at Montreal Lake says this:

"Our cozy newly-constructed school, last winter, is beside Highway No. 2. I feel privileged over some of the

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northern teachers in having access quite readily to the outside world. Twice I have been home to Pierceland, and several times in to Prince Albert; therefore, my previous misconception of being so far north has radically changed.”

This is indicative of the progress that is being made in the northern part of this province as the result of the initiative of this administration to bring roads and schools and health services to that country. I want to say here that, as a result of the establishment of the schools and providing teachers in the north, a great deal of help has been received and a great deal of co-operation has been given by the Department of Education in connection with these 4-H Club activities that would not have been possible had not the schools been provided for these people, as well as the teachers.

Another comment runs in this vein:

“We are progressing in our public-speaking contest. It was hard at first, but we have really worked on it and now we are almost hoping to win.”

And another comment, Mr. Speaker: (coming from a news editor from the Green Lake club)

“From Meadow Lake to Green Lake we now have a highway! Two years ago a construction crew called the Stewarts assumed the task of changing the old wagon trail from our districts into a modern road fit for motor vehicles. In the first step towards this achievement that Company sent out employees to scout the most suitable routes. They checked their chosen paths by marking them with small stakes with a peculiar printing, which all road markers can easily decipher. Then the cleaning up again. Five Caterpillars bulldozed those huge trees, cut down steep hills, dug ditches to insure a passable road suitable for traffic. During all the summer months 18 men pursued their work until freeze-up, leaving the road covered with heavy gumbo; then the job remained dormant for the months following. Last fall, to our great contentment, a gravel gang appeared, heavy graders smoothed the gravel and now the most hazardous spots have become safe and pleasant.

“We wish to extend our most sincere thanks to all those who rendered this northland what it is today.”

I could quote many more, Mr. Speaker, but I think I have taken sufficient time for quotations to convince the people of this province that the statements made by the hon. member from Meadow Lake, as usual, are exaggerated, uncalled for, and certainly cannot be constructive criticism as recommended by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to mention and refer to one more thing; another editorial. It is not of any great consequence, but it was with a

considerable bit of humour that I read it. this editorial appeared in the Saskatoon 'Star Phoenix'. We naturally expect that the Liberal daily press wishes to build up the new Leader of the Opposition, and we cannot blame them for this; but sometimes they go to a ridiculous extreme, and the humour that I derived from this particular editorial lay in the fact that it did go to a very ridiculous extreme. The editorial writer, it seems, wished to convey the impression that, somehow or other, the Premier had come off second best in the Throne Speech debate, when he stated that the second source of encouragement in the speech of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was the performance of the hon. Leader in his first real legislative test as Opposition Leader. The editorial goes on:

“As a matter of fact, a comparison of the reports of the two speeches leads us to the conclusion that Mr. McDonald had the best of the encounter.”

This is then qualified by saying:

“If they are right, this was a remarkable is achievement . . .”

Indeed, it would be a remarkable achievement. It is the kind of achievement that we all aspire to, and, Mr. Speaker, in order that people may get the record straight, I would suggest that they read the historical records of the feud between the Scottish clans, and I think they will find that the Douglas usually came out on top in any competition with the McDonalds.

Mr. McDonald: — Never in their lives!

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — I am sure that the hon. member for Nipawin would agree with that statement; and the hon. Leader of the Opposition, being a very modest Scott, blushes at the suggestion that he should aspire to such high honours.

I wish to deal, now, with a few statements contained in this speech of the hon. Leader of the Opposition. He said that the Government has not paid the attention it should have to agriculture, our basic industry in Saskatchewan. Again, Mr. Speaker, much as I dislike to, I will have to refer to some figures in order to give the facts in this particular instance. The estimates for the Department of Agriculture 1944-45, when we took over the administration of the government of this province, were \$761,000. In 1954-55, our agriculture estimates were \$5,100,000. Some of that increase can be attributed to increased costs and increase salaries; but I am going to give to the House the actual net increases above increase costs that have taken place; and they amount to well over \$4 million, made up of an increase in assistance to agricultural societies in junior clubs of \$90,000; of increased assistance to the agricultural representatives service of \$335,000; increased services to veterinary districts, and in behalf of veterinary policies, \$70,000; General assistance to the livestock industry, \$114,000; improvements in protection to field crops, a straight increase of \$256,000; and to the Conservation and Development Branch, an entirely new branch, of very nearly \$2 million. As a matter of fact, to date there has been spent, in the Conservation and Development Branch, since 1949, \$6,733,000 on behalf of reclamation of land by draining and irrigation, and we have provided in this new branch a complete engineering staff plus equipment to do the work of physical development. This is a new service that never existed before the provincial Department of Agriculture.

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To give a further indication of the expanded programmes in the Ag-Rep. Service. In 1944, there were only 21 agricultural representatives, and the service did not rate the status of a branch with an administrative director. In 1954, the agricultural representative branch comprises a staff of 77 persons, including 44 agronomists and 23 clerical staff in country offices alone, with 4 agronomists and 6 clerical staff at the central office. In 1944, the 21 agricultural representatives served their districts out of 11 headquarters, while in 1954, the 37 agricultural representatives worked out of 35 headquarters. In 1944, a total of 695 farm meetings were held, while in 1954, a total of 4,600 meetings were held in country points, indicating the improved services given to the farmers of this province.

In regard to assistance grants to agricultural societies and junior clubs, it might be of interest to note that the grants to the Class A fairs have increased three times over — from \$21,000 in 1943-44 to over \$67,000 in 1953-54. Grants to the Class B fairs similarly by well over 300 per cent, and the grants to the Class C fairs have been increased nearly six times over what they were in 1943-44. For junior club activities, the grants, as compared to 1943-44, increased from \$5,900 to \$14,500 in 1953-54; and so I could go on down the line in great detail, indicating the tremendous additional services that have been given to the agricultural industry of this province

In the Plant Industries Branch, assistance in the matter of tree-planting programmes and roadside re-grassing, spraying assistance and weed-control assistance alone since these programmes were inaugurated in 1948, we have expanded some \$300,000 on behalf of the assistance programmes just mentioned.

I don't think that it is necessary for me to go to any further detail to convince the people of this province that the Department of Agriculture has undergone a terrific expansion within the past few years.

Some reference has been made in the Throne Speech to the seriousness of the effects of some two or three crop failures in north-eastern Saskatchewan because of flood conditions. Reference was made to the assistance that is being made available to the people of the north-east part of this province through work-and-wages programmes inaugurated at an early date, last summer. It might interest the House to know that some \$250,000 has been expended in these work-and-wages programmes to date; but, Mr. Speaker, never has the lease policy of the Department being justified to a greater extent than it has under these circumstances. It might interest the House to know that, at the end of this fiscal year, we will have paid out in clearing and breaking accounts to lessees who hold Crown land, some \$1,500,000. It might interest the House to know that cash payments have been made to lessees of Crown lands for clearing and breaking in the amount of \$2,000,000 to date, all of which is contributed immensely towards assisting Crown lessees in overcoming the adverse conditions experienced over the past three years particularly in the north-east part of the province.

I have heard a good deal said in this House and comparisons made with reference to similar settlements on the Manitoba side of the border. We have been criticized because we haven't sold this land outright to prospective settlers. We haven't gone into the lease policy because of any perversity of mind or because of any particular philosophy. We went into this policy of land settlement because we felt that it was the best form of partnership arrangement that could possibly be devised to assist a young man who intended to start farming

on new land toward becoming established, without too much initial financial burden; and our policies have been justified, particularly so in view of adverse weather conditions in the north-east part of the province.

I have a statement which appeared in the Winnipeg 'Free Press' of November 5, 1954. Apparently they are having their difficulties on the Manitoba side of the border as well. The reason I want to make reference to this editorial is to make a comparison between the lot of the Crown land lessee on our side of the border insofar as new settlement is concerned, and the lot of the settler on the Manitoba side of the border, where he has been subjected to an initial cash payment for the land, plus interest and plus payments over at 15-year period of time. And these are veteran settlers. The Winnipeg 'Free Press' news item is entitled: "PUT UP OR CLOSE UP on a veteran project, Legion tells Government." It states:

"The representations to the Government contained the following recommendations:

"That the province should arrange a consolidation of debt owing by the settlers to the Manitoba government, municipalities and others. It would also be necessary to postpone payment on these until settlers have enough working capital to keep them going. The Legion committee suggested that commercial bank credit supported by the government was the most practical."

Compare that, Mr. Speaker, with our policy, where we make payments outright for clearing and breaking down, and where there are no annual interest liabilities and consequent accumulation of interest liabilities, as well. The delegations further recommended:

"That work for settlers who can leave their families and livestock during the winter should be provided. Arrangements made previously in this respect have been appreciated."

It is noteworthy that the administration here at an early date gave assistance as far as work and wages was concerned. And then one more thing is mentioned:

"That one authority should be situated near the settlement with the power from the government to act. This representative should also be able to co-ordinate work and plans of government departments now involved in the project."

The Canadian Legion circularized some 43 settlers, asking them to report on their experiences. Some of the experiences related by the settlers are interesting and I quote some of them. One states:

"I came here in 1946 with \$6,300. I have cleared and broken 100 acres myself. I bought equipment, put up buildings. Now, through no fault of my own, I am broke. We have no roads fit to travel. The drainage problem is still with us."

Another declared:

"Someone else will have to figure a way to make the project a success. I have tried all I know and I consider —

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and outside of army life I have farmed all my life. I am unable to properly summer fallow the land I have broke. What happens from here I don't know."

I think, Mr. Speaker, that this proves conclusively that we were right when we adopted a lease policy under which the Crown, as the landlord, went into partnership with the lessee towards getting him established. I might say, a whole lot of extra administrative and clerical work is involved in order to establish this kind of relationship, and I am happy to say to this House that, in this fiscal year, another crop failure year, we will be paying out to lessees of Crown lands some \$1,500,000.

The Throne Speech makes some reference, as it has for the past couple of years, to the South Saskatchewan dam. The Leader of the Opposition referred in his speech to things that should have been done years ago. Well, so many things have been done in the past ten years that the Liberal party does not even now realize what has already been done. In fact, they are late as usual in even recognizing accomplished facts, because they have hastily placed in their 1954 model platform things which are not new, as though they were still things to be done; but, as a matter of fact, things that have either already been initiated, or are now accomplished facts.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell them of the one thing that the people of Saskatchewan should have had years ago. I refer, to the construction of the South Saskatchewan dam. Indeterminable negotiations and correspondence have taken place in regard to this project since I became Minister of this Department, until it now looks as though this whole matter is tied up and bogged down with a hopeless exchange of correspondence and political fancy footwork on the part of the Dominion Government in regard to proceeding with the project. They should have told as long ago whether or not they were prepared to proceed with this project, in order to avoid this interminable correspondence, negotiations and meetings after meetings that have been held over the past years. Why! Mr. Speaker, since we have been talking about this project, in the country to the south of us they have built another project, completely at the expense of the National Government there. I refer to the Fort Garrison dam. The National Government there is so interested in helping certain areas of the United States that it is prepared not only to build a dam and irrigation structures complete, but also to put in the electrical generation units, and, in addition to this also make loans available, at very low rates of interest, to co-operatives who make distribution of the power generated at very low rates. It is unfortunate that the farmers in the states of Montana and Dakota have already enjoyed the benefits of cheap rural electrification while we are still being denied. This is because of the broad viewpoint that the American Government takes on resource development in that country as against the narrow viewpoint taken by the Ottawa administration in Canada.

The hon. members opposite ought to be the last to talk about this administration being backward in assisting agriculture or in providing expanded social services. We have a good record in that regard, Mr. Speaker, and no one in this province has ever accused us of being backward in these matters. As a matter of fact, more often than not, I have heard hon. members opposite get up on their feet (a few years ago) and accuse us of going too far with social services: now they want everything. Well I am going to tell them a few things, Mr. Speaker, in regard to this dam. It is evident that our government at Ottawa has no uniform, clear-cut policy for the development of Canada's great potential natural resources. It seems that they follow a policy of political expediency in these important matters . . .

Some Government Members: — Hear! Hear!

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — . . . as witnessed by going ahead with the St. Lawrence seaway that will reduce power rates in a province where power rates are already low, to a much lower level, and which will naturally attract more industry to a province where they already have great industries. I heard a man from Ontario telling us here, last summer, at a Jubilee celebration of the great industrial possibilities that were going to take place in his little town in Ontario because of reduced power rates, after the St. Lawrence Seaway is completed. There has been no question there, Mr. Speaker, about subsidization of power. Why is it that they raise the question when we ask for a similar project in this province of ours? As I stated on one location to the Federal Minister, unfortunately, nature hasn't endowed us with power sites that can be developed at low cost, similar to the power sites in Manitoba or British Columbia. Any development that takes place in this province will be costly; but in the negotiations to date it can clearly be seen that the Ottawa government is bound that the people of this province will have to pay high power rates forever.

Hon. members opposite ought to be the last to talk about cheaper power rates. As a matter of fact, this administration has reduced power rates since we took over, in 1944, on three different occasions, despite the fact that we had a very expensive and extensive rural electrification programme in this province.

Mr. Loptson (Saltcoats): — Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask . . .

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would just sit down on his fanny until I am through . . .

Mr. McDonald: — You'd be better if you had stayed on yours, too.

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that we are on the air with limited time, they insist on getting up; if there are any questions he would like to ask when I am making my budget address, he can do so, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Loptson: — You are opposed to the St. Lawrence Seaway, eh?

Hon. Mr. Nollet: — They keep talking about how they are going to provide cheaper electrification. On the other hand, the Ottawa government, in our negotiations to date, indicates clearly that we shall not have cheap electrification in the province of Saskatchewan. I am going to tell them why, Mr. Speaker. It has been announced in the Throne Speech that we have agreed in principle to an agreement drafted by representatives of the Dominion Government. What is implied in this agreement? Here is what is implied — and I hope the people of this province understand and know this; I think it is high time that the people of this province are told about what has been going on behind the scenes in regard to the negotiations on this very important project. This administration has done much for agriculture; we are prepared to do much more. As a matter of fact, we have been criticized by the most ardent exponents of irrigation in this province for already having committed the province to too much, when we accepted, in principle, the agreement that I am going to refer to now.

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What does it say? It says that the province is expected to pay \$20 million, or more, towards the construction of the dam itself; and to assume full responsibility for all the works beyond the dam, amounting to another \$35 million. Then, of course, we will have to put in the generation equipment and the conduits in the dam, and that will cost another \$20 million, making a grand total of some \$75 million that this province will have to provide for, if this project is preceded with. That is the price we are paying. This is what is meant, Mr. Speaker, when the Federal government says that power should not be subsidized in this province of ours. They are saying, in effect, that we must not go above the generating rates that power can be produced from our present steam plants. That is what they are saying; and further that we will forever be denied cheap power in Saskatchewan!

What is the alternative if we don't go along and accept these unreasonable demands? What is the future of this province, Mr. Speaker? It is grim, indeed. There will be no possibility of industrial development here. The Government has no alternative but proceed, in behalf of the economic future of this province and in behalf of the agricultural industry of this province. This is a big commitment to be faced with. But, very nonchalantly, our hon. members opposite and the daily press, suggest that we should be reducing taxes, that we should make more and more grants. It is never enough, Mr. Speaker. They forget that we may be called upon at any time to take on this financial responsibility too. I think this is a most unfair and unjustified amount for this Province to contribute towards the cost of this particular project. It seems that if Confederation means anything, it ought to mean that people are unfortunately situated, people in the so-called 'have-nots' provinces, ought to be helped by the Federal treasury, which has a wide and broad taxing power, to develop the resources of these respective areas in order that the standards of living and the standards of services may be improved in such parts of the Dominion of Canada. If it doesn't mean that, what then does Confederation stand for? In United States to the south of us they have recognized this principle, and I had the opportunity of hearing the President enunciate those principles when he was closing the Fort Garrison dam in North Dakota.

I think, Mr. Speaker, this should be enough. I want to say that we have been accused of blaming Ottawa for everything, that we give all the blame to Ottawa. We have never blamed Ottawa for anything that isn't its actual responsibility. We have assumed responsibility in many cases that are responsibilities of the Federal Government. We assisted in hospital grants far before the date the Dominion Government came in. We also provided supplementary old-age pensions, but everyone knows that there are limits to what a province can do.

We have also reduced the burden of taxation on the land. We returned to municipalities the Public Revenue Tax. Further the increased social responsibilities that have been assumed by this administration are well recognized by the municipal people of this province, and nothing that the hon. members opposite can say is going to convince the municipal people of this province to any other conclusion.

Another thing mentioned in the speech of the hon. Leader of the Opposition was that everything we have done in respect to agriculture has increased taxes. Well, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that they are in complete

contradiction with themselves. In one breath they say we should have more and more services, that the Provincial Government ought to assume greater and wider responsibilities; that we even ought to assume the responsibility for marketing and pricing agricultural commodities. They know quite well that this is clear-cut Dominion Jurisdiction. Then they turn right around, and they start pitying the poor taxpayer, hoping to get some ill-gotten and cheap political support, the most irresponsible attitude that I have ever seen in opposition, and I include the daily press, too, Mr. Speaker. I looked at an editorial, the other day, in regard to the expanded programmes that have been necessary in the city of Regina with expenditures that will involve some \$6,000,000; and did they picture the taxpayer as a burdened down, depressed kind of a creature that couldn't waddle because of the burden of taxes on his back? Oh, no! Here was Mr. Taxpayer standing up there with his chest out, saying to the fathers of the city of Regina, "Well, it is about time." Well, Mr. Speaker, it was also about time to have added a whole lot of services in the province of Saskatchewan, and we have at last got them. We have better educational services in this province; we have better municipal roads in this province. Despite what anybody says, our roads are better throughout and better road equipment too. But, Mr. Speaker, costs have gone up, and neither municipal governments nor provincial government can escape when costs are permitted to rise as they have been permitted to rise in the post-war years.

I was talking to my municipal secretary, a few weeks ago, and I asked him how much the municipality had invested in road equipment. He told me that they have over \$40,000 invested in road equipment. I asked the same question when I was reeve of this municipality during the depression years, and at that time the secretary replied that the municipality had about five or six hundred dollars tied up in road equipment. Yes, a few old Fresnos and some of those old foot burners, walking ploughs, and a few slips; and at that time I also said, "If I had only that much equipment on my farm, comparatively speaking, I wouldn't have enough to farm 10 acres, let alone the amount of acreage that I was farming.

The point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, is that, instead of having \$600 invested in road equipment, this municipality now has \$40,000 invested in road equipment. Is anyone going to tell me that this road equipment hasn't made better roads? Certainly road should be better still; and it is a big problem. However, I am suggesting that costs have gone up in municipalities, and this is just one illustration. Similarly, costs of gone up as far as the farmer is concerned too. Hon. members ought to recognize that the farmer, today, has 20 times as much invested in equipment as he had in the 1920's, and 10 times as much as he did in the 1930's.

Where are we going to get the money to provide the level of services required by people today for a mechanized agricultural economy? There is only one place that it can be obtained, Mr. Speaker and that is out of the price that the farmer receives for his products. We have been fighting in season and out of season in behalf of adequate prices to our farmers. We have asked, I think on two successive occasions, in the Throne Speech and in this House, and I have also asked the Federal Minister of Agriculture to call a conference at which we could discuss the entire matter of marketing, particularly livestock and livestock products. We like the Wheat Board principle. It has given the grain growers a great deal of stability. We would like to see our livestock producers and our poultry and dairy producers receive the same kind of price stability.

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When I say this, Mr. Speaker, I am not speaking entirely in behalf of the farm people of this province; I am also speaking for the continuity of the present level of municipal and educational services that we now have in rural areas. In my own country we have rural electrification, and everyone is thankful for it; and the people know that it is going to cost money. They know, too, that it is much cheaper than the wind-charger that Mr. Gardiner talked about. Mr. Gardiner's solution, as you will recall, was that all farmers should put up wind-chargers. Well, they might work and operate quite cheaply as long as we have enough people like Mr. Gardiner around, but since having made that statement, I know that Mr. Gardiner also now has rural power, and I am sure that he finds it much cheaper than the wind-charger. It does much more work, and certainly lightens the burden of toil for our farm people.

All of this means, Mr. Speaker, that some place along the road governments must recognize that we will have to get together on marketing plans that will at least guarantee some economic stability to this important agricultural industry of ours.

I could say a good deal more, Mr. Speaker, in regard to the cost price 'squeeze' that has taken place in the past few years, but this administration and this party of which I am pleased to be a member, found its origin in the struggles of the farm people of this province. We have, in season and out of season fought on behalf of agriculture. Our record in that regard is well known, and stands on its own merits. Suggestions from hon. members opposite that we have increased farm production costs, is without foundation, when everyone knows that the cost of everything that goes into the farmer's operation has increased, in some cases, 300 per cent. I think I recall that the hon. Minister of Education (Mr. Lloyd) mentioned in this House that if increased costs alone were available to pay taxes, all our school taxes would be taken care of, as well as municipal taxes.

I know that my time is now exhausted, Mr. Speaker, much to my great regret. I was just getting up a nice little head of steam to a point where I could give hon. members opposite a few facts that wouldn't be very cheerful to them. I will support the motion.

Mr. E. Kramer (The Battlefords): — In rising in this debate on the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, there are many things that I would like to say. The first, and the most important, is that I have a new daughter to report to this Legislature, born February 22nd. I do not expect to make an annual event of this, if anyone is wondering about it.

I want to congratulate those who have spoken before me in this debate. Their varying contributions have been indicative of their varying abilities. I want to congratulate the hon. Leader of the Opposition on his accession to the Liberal throne in this province. It is rather ironic, this congratulating the member of the Opposition, because further on in my speech I intend to knock into a cocked hat some of the arguments that he put up in the Throne Speech debate.

I want to say a few words, this Jubilee Year, about The Battlefords. I think we can rightly claim that The Battlefords and the town of

Battleford is the most historic site in the province of Saskatchewan. If any others wish to argue that point they can see me later. Battleford was the first capital of the North-West Territories. Since then, things have deteriorated to some extent in this province, and they moved the capital down to Regina, which we regret, but can do very little about it. I want to say that if it had been left there, we could have saved the province considerable expense. We have spent a good deal of money landscaping, building a man-made lake here, when the natural terrain and scenery around the town of Battleford and the city of North Battleford would have lent itself as a very proper setting to the capital of Saskatchewan, and it would have been far more central in the long run.

I would say a few more words about the town of Battleford. I want to say that it is a very historic site. We don't have to read history there; you can reach out and touch it, and there is a good deal to reach out and touch. I think, in mentioning this, we must mention the old parliament buildings, which are now our Roman Catholic college up on the south bank of the Battle River. Further down, along No. 4 Highway coming into the town of Battleford you have the Indian and Natural History Museum. It has been taken over since it was renovated by the Provincial Government, and is now run by the Dominion Government. We in The Battlefords are very thankful of the foresight of this Government when they stepped in and salvaged what was fast becoming a lost history, when they salvaged the old barracks.

History shows and records show that, for years, the people of the Battlefords had been attempting to save that particular area. They pleaded with both the national and the provincial government to do something about it, but it wasn't done until the advent of a C.C.F. government that had the interests of history and the people of Saskatchewan at heart. They did something about it, and we are proud of it, Mr. Speaker; and the people of The Battlefords, and especially the town of Battleford, are very grateful for it.

I would like to say further, in this Jubilee Year, that the city of North Battleford is the fastest-growing city in Saskatchewan. It is a very progressive city, a very nice city, and a city that you could come and visit, whether on holiday, or if you intended to settle there. We would be pleased to see you, and we know that there is a real future in north-western Saskatchewan and in the city of North Battleford.

This is the Jubilee Year also for the City of North Battleford, Mr. Speaker, and we will be celebrating that along with our provincial Golden Jubilee. It is also a bit of a jubilee for myself, personally, for our family. It is 50 years ago today that my father came to Battleford. He walked (and it took him four days) from Saskatoon to where he finally located his homestead 16 miles north and east of the city of North Battleford.

We have accomplished a great deal in the city of North Battleford throughout the past few years. This year some of our pasture lands were culminated in the building and opening of a new City Hall and new Fire Hall. Several community centres, new churches and so on and being built, and we also have a new and the most modern shopping centre in north-western Saskatchewan in the new Co-op store that is being built there, this year. Tomorrow, down in the east end of The Battlefords constituency, they are opening a new wing of the Borden Hospital, which will further increase the hospital facilities of The Battlefords constituency. I understand the Minister of Health, Mr. Bentley,

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will be there tomorrow night and I hope to be there myself to take part in the celebration.

Through the entire area there, whether it is in the rural parts or the urban centres, they are progressive, hard-working people and they are very proud of their place in Saskatchewan's history, as will be proven by their celebrations in their dedications, next summer, in our Golden Jubilee year.

I would like to say much more about this constituency, this area, but time is limited. Anything I might say, I am afraid, would certainly be an anticlimax after the Minister of Agriculture has spoken.

In this Jubilee Year, I believe that we should honour our pioneers. I want to say a few words about them. Many people wonder about the people of western Canada, and some of our friends in eastern Canada and the older and more conservative section of the country, wonder a bit about why we do things out here that seem to be frowned on a bit in eastern Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I want to suggest to you and to this House, the reason we do things is because we here in western Canada dare to be different; we dare to look to further horizons. This is a perfectly natural thing. We come from a people who left their homeland years ago, came here and faced the hardships simply because they were not satisfied to sit back and do what grandfather had done for generations. We are the sons and daughters of people who dared to be different and dared to try something new, and I hope that we will never lose that vision, that we will never become conformative to old traditions. It can become a very serious thing when you are continually looking back over your shoulder at the past and fail to see what the future may hold for you.

Our pioneers came out here, as I said, and suffered a great deal of privation, and I still remember some of that. After all, it is about 40 years ago, or little better, that I was born out on the homestead. We did not have doctors and facilities within easy distances we have today. My mother had to be satisfied with the assistance of a midwife — a very good one too, I must say; and she had to be, too, because I weighed 13 pounds when I was born. At this time I would just like to remember the pioneers, and especially the mothers of those pioneers, because it is their contribution, Mr. Speaker and members of this House, that made a future in this country possible. They, too, dared to try and dared to face the battles of nature.

I would like to quote from this poem of Josiah Gilbert Holland, and I would especially like to dedicate this to my mother out on the ranch — she is 76 years old, and she is still out there and is still enjoying good health — and to my wife into all the other mothers of Saskatchewan, and the pioneer mothers:

“More human, more divine than we
In truth, half human, half divine
Is Woman when good stars agree,
To tamper with their means denying
The hour of her nativity.”

I would like to say further on this, another poem entitled “The Day's Demand.” I think every one of us in this House can take cognizance of this, Mr. Speaker:

“God give us men; a time like this demands strong minds,
 great hearts, true faith and ready hands;
 Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
 Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
 Men who possess opinions and a will;
 Men who have honour; men who will not lie;
 Men who can stand before a demagogue and damn his
 treacherous flatteries without winking;
 Good men, some crowned, who live above the fog
 In public duty and in private thinking.”

Mr. Speaker, we have a province here that is not only different in its people; we have the people who are different. They came from many lands. You have, right now, people who have not moved too far away even from their native language. Up in my constituency and all over the province you will find Scandinavian, Germanic, and Ukrainian people who will still greet you in their native tongue; and you will have the Scotsman who will say “Hoot mon” and the Irishman who will say, “Sure and begorrah” and all these people have been blended together, and they form a people who dare, as I said, to be different. That is why we, in the province of Saskatchewan, have progressed further with many of the programmes that we have undertaken that other speakers have outlined — and I shall not take up the time of this House in going over them again. The debate thus far has clearly outlined the progress that has been made in the last 10 years by this Government. I am not discounting that progress has been made by other governments in the past; but I do object, Mr. Speaker, to people like the hon. member for Meadow Lake (Mr. Dunfield) for instance, and the hon. member for Arm River (Mr. Danielson) with that gutter type of debate which they choose to indulge in. As far as I am concerned, if I had to reply to them I would have to get down in the gutter, too, and I don't like the gutter. So the best thing I can do is to ignore them.

We have problems as has been pointed out in this debate, in the province of Saskatchewan and in my constituency. I know what the problems are. I held several meetings, last fall, throughout the farming area in my constituency, and that is the area that feels the pinch first. The pinch is felt first by the farmer always in this agricultural Community. From there on it is felt by the workingman and the small businessman as is indicated by several bankruptcies that did come into effect and were suffered by some of the businessmen in north-western Saskatchewan this year. Why? Why?

We have been told that the farmers of western Canada have enjoyed the ten most prosperous years in our history, which is relatively true; but what they have failed to say is that, in spite of the fact that they were the best years, they are still not good enough, not in a country like this that has the elements to battle with, all the gambles that nature can offer. We have got our good solid areas like Rosetown and a few others that are consistent with tremendously good crops every year; but the great part of Saskatchewan is still on a 15-bushel average and less. Some of them do not enjoy a 15-bushel average. It is those people who feel the pinch, and those people are the great multitude of taxpayers in the province of Saskatchewan. It is those people who must provide the lifeblood for government finances and municipal finances and federal finances — and why haven't they got enough? Why do they suffer when the first major crop failure, the first major catastrophe comes along? Why haven't they got enough? I will tell you why they haven't got enough. Simply because the fiscal policies of the Federal Government have been inadequate and

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too little. The Federal Government, in spite of what these people on the other side of the House will try to tell us, is responsible for the economy of this country. It is no use for them to stand there and try to 'balkanize' Saskatchewan and make an economic entity of it. The people of Saskatchewan know too well what the problems are.

I will tell you what the problems are. They are short of money! I think probably the best way to bring it home, especially to the hon. members opposite, the answer to all their criticism so far, would be to quote from a speech of a man who is well known in this House. It is the Star Phoenix, January 31, 1955, and let me tell you, we appreciate reading the Star Phoenix up around The Battlefords, especially after we have been subjected to the Leader-Post for a few days down here. I grant that, especially around election time, it becomes very slanted and very biased in favour of the Liberal party; but it least it will print both sides of the story — if you search far enough and go on to the back pages. That is more than we can say for the Leader-Post on many occasions. To get back to the speech made by Mr. Walter Tucker, M.P. for Rosthern, in the House of Commons on January 18th, and he starts out:

“I should like to deal with the problems facing western Canada today. As you know, in 1939, the Prairie Farmers' Assistance act was passed, under which the farmer contributes one per cent from the receipts of the sale of his grain. This is collected by the Federal Government. In the case of crop failure, payments are made to the farmer. At the time the Act was passed the farmer received (mark this) 57 cents per bushel for his wheat, on an average. The levy of one per cent meant that the Federal Government collected about half a cent per bushel. For the last 8 years the Federal Government has been collecting, under this one per cent provision, 1.6 cents per bushel on average price prevailing, during that time, of \$1.63. This is almost three times as much as it had been collecting when the Act was passed.”

Well, we all know that; there is nothing too revealing about that:

“The difficulty is that the payments to the farmers remain practically as they were when the Act was passed, with a maximum payment being \$500 and the minimum being \$300. Today \$500 will not even go half as far as it did when the Act was first passed. This payment was supposed to enable the farmer to put in his crop and tide himself over the following year. It was not too generous an allowance to do that, back in 1939. Today, when the dollar does not go nearly as far, of course, this payment does not do what the Act was originally designed to accomplish. The actual cost the farmer must pay to live and carry on his occupation has risen to an extent indicated by the fact that, taking the index for the base period of 1935-39 as 100, the figure, today, is 225.”

Get out your paper and pencils, and take that down, in case you haven't got this speech:

“In other words, it takes \$225 today to do the work that \$100 would have done in 1935-59. Today, therefore, \$500 will not do as much as \$250 would do when the Act was first passed.”

Mr. Speaker, there is your answer. There is the answer to the people opposite. The hon. Leader of the Opposition stood up and told us “the farmer is paying too much taxes”, and he got up and he prattled about this very generous P.F.A.A. payment, and he also had the nerve to get up here and prattle about a mothers’ allowance that was so generously given by the Federal Government — pardon me, the family allowance.

Mr. McDonald: — Be careful!

Mr. Kramer: — You know what I meant. I want to say that the hon. Leader of the Opposition had better take another trip back to Ottawa. He had better tell the general headquarters back there that their strategy is not too good. They loaded him up with an awful bum load of ammunition when he was down there, last time.

The people of Saskatchewan, and the Liberals (I have an awful lot of friends who are Liberals, and I appreciate them) expected something better than that, Mr. Speaker. They expected to have leadership, and I was pleased to hear the hon. Leader of the Opposition say that he hoped to conduct the debates in this House on a high plane, and that he expected to give constructive criticism. If he wants to get a following and have some of the Liberals that probably may, or may not, still vote for him, and come out of hiding and support him, I think he had better go back to Ottawa and stand up on his hind legs and tell the Liberals down there, and the general strategy committee and so on, that the people and the farmers and the working men and the business men of western Canada are tired of being pushed around and being treated as a poor relation of eastern Canada. He had better go down and tell them that the farmers of western Canada are tired of hearing just promises. He can go down and tell them that the people of western Canada would like to see not only the P.F.A.A. Act up-dated, but they would like to see something done about the promises that go back even further than that, before they are going to renew their faith. Let him go down and tell them about the 1919 health insurance promise where all the people of Canada, according to the late Rt. Hon. William Lyon MacKenzie King, were going to have a complete medical, dental and health care from the cradle to the grave. That was in 1919 — 36 years ago — still a good promise; and the Hon. Paul Martin had the nerve to say that the people of Canada were pleased with the ‘dynamic approach’ taken by the Federal Government on their health matters.

He had better also tell them that the farmers of western Canada are tired of hearing just talk about the South Saskatchewan River dam. We are also very tired and also disappointed in hearing our leader, the Rt. Hon. St. Laurent, say that he doubts, at this time, after spending \$2,000,000 finding out the engineering possibilities — after spending \$2,000,000 they doubt it if it is in the national interest. They doubt if it is in the national interest! I could say that he could also go back and tell them that the farmers of western Canada are looking for something that will approach parity prices for agricultural products. The excuse is always given — “we are too much of an exporting nation; we cannot do what the United States is doing.” Well, they can make a start. We consume 20 per cent of our wheat here in Canada and if the farmers of

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western Canada had received parity prices, which would have meant about 40 to 50 cents more per bushel for 20 per cent of their wheat, they would be in a considerably better financial position today than they are. Tell them that, next time you go to Ottawa!

Mr. Speaker, another thing that he can tell them is that the farmers of western Canada are tired of paying the bulk of the taxes. Figure out the 10-per cent sales tax alone, and forget all the others, on what we pay on the machinery that comes in here. We are tired of that. And we are tired of being told about that miserable pittance that is given back in return for all the money that goes from us, and we are tired of hearing about the subsidy which the proper name for is the 'tax rental' — \$27,000,000 given back for the privilege to pick our pockets of hundreds of millions! Yes, we are tired of hearing that, too! And if you want your Liberal friends to come out of hiding and stop hanging their heads in shame, then I think you had better go back and make it public. When you do, and if you do, you will get support; you will get support from quarters you probably never even dreamed of. He won't have to go out, Mr. Speaker, when the campaign comes on, and depend entirely on P.F.A.A. and P.F.R.A. for his organization support. That is what, unfortunately, those two organizations have largely become. We appreciate the P.F.A.A. Act and we appreciate the plan. We feel — and four meetings that I held in my constituency bear that out; the resolutions came from the floor and in each case they said they could either be doubled or trebled and that, in spite of the fact that they are already paying three times as much, they would be willing to pay more in the compulsory deductions on the P.F.A.A. plan. You know, it is a funny thing. These people are always talking about compulsory insurance, yet there are more compulsory plans, such as the P.F.A.A. Act, which forces you to pay, and quite often won't allow you to collect, if they can find some loophole; you are forced to pay into this and then, in many cases, you will not be paid simply because of some little loophole in the Act, such as a man being away from home or one thing or another, and they don't pay him.

The Act, Mr. Speaker, does not need to hire scads and scads of men to do political work when they should be doing inspection work. The inspection work in itself is not necessary. All the information that these inspectors pick up, and spend countless hours and dollars picking up, could be obtained far more efficiently and in far less time if it had been done by the municipal secretary on the recommendations of the municipal council and through the information that is in the Permit Book given under oath in every elevator. There is no reason in the world why they should hire hordes of men when you can look for miles in any direction in the country, and you can see a jackrabbit at 300 yards. Why should they further impede the progress and create further expense by hiring inspectors? Well, there were very few people on the Liberal ticket who weren't hired, this year, as P.F.A.A. inspectors.

I am going to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that if the hon. Leader of the Opposition says that western farmers are tired of that kind of patronage in that kind of administration, and if he cuts adrift from these people, he won't have those old boys who are out on P.F.A.A. working for him, but I will grant you that he will have some young men who are proud to go out and work for nothing, because of something they believe in. We, on the side of the House, do not have to depend on anybody except those people who believe they have got something to work for. Every time I have taken part in an election (and I have taken part in a good many of them), people who cannot

afford to do so dig down in their pockets, put up money for radio time, drive their cars and work, and the work is pretty effective, as the representation on this side of the House so aptly shows.

I don't want to dwell too long on these points. I certainly want to say that rubbing salt in a few obvious sores, speaking on these little immediate things that people have, will solve nothing. Apparently the Leader of the Opposition and his friends have toured around and they have picked up the most obvious things that people, who are not too well informed, have complained about; but it doesn't take too long to find out why. We have been telling them why, and apparently the ex-Leader of the Opposition, once removed, has found out something he would never admit while he was here. He has found out that it costs \$2.25 to do what \$1.00 would do about 10, 12 or 15 years ago.

There is the answer, Mr. Speaker regarding our difficulties on the farm front. There is a difficulty regarding the troubles on the labour front. The people who are working in every walk of life are continually being, and have continually, been, faced with this uncontrolled inflation and they, too, must strive to get their wages raised to put bread and milk into the mouths of their families. Simply saying that 'taxes are high' isn't going to solve anything. It is not going to satisfy anyone, and what the Opposition has said so far is simply this: they have really stretched their imaginations in the most freakish manner. They have come to the conclusion now that, in spite of the fact that the Federal Government has failed to do and take the necessary steps to meet these natural economic crises that we have faced for the last ten years, they have tied the farmer to a stump with controlled prices in wheat and one thing and another, and allowed all the rest of the prices to go up and up and up. The farmer was sitting right on the tailboard while prices were going up — and where is he now? Sitting right on the neck yoke, leading the parade while prices are going down; and it is not going to be very long, as businessmen well know, before they are joined by the workers and the farmers.

I was surprised that the member for Souris-Estevan (Mr. Kohaly) contributed further to this particular mirage they are trying to create by saying that we here in Saskatchewan are not doing our part to do something about unemployment. Wouldn't it be surprising, Mr. Speaker, if unemployment was not a problem here in Saskatchewan, this year, when farmers have had practically no purchasing power? Garages in small towns and cities all over have laid off help because the farmer isn't bringing in his truck and his car to be overhauled, and all the other work that goes on, when economy is buoyant and prosperous. The only reason that we weren't in this position before is because of nature's goodness in providing more than ample crops. We produced three and four times the bushels in the past two years, prior to 1954, than we had done in any average year before that; so we actually were growing twice the crops at the same expense, and the very small price that we were getting for our product helped to take care of the situation. But what happens? And the member for Souris-Estevan ought to know; he doesn't live too far from the border. Right at North Portal, Mr. Speaker, you can go into the elevator on the Canadian side of the border and the initial price paid to the farmer that day is \$1.23. Walk across the line in the same town to the American side, and it is about \$2.24 or \$2.25 for the same grade of wheat! Likewise, go to the automobile dealer, for instance, and buy a Ford car on the Canadian side of the border and you will pay \$600 more than you will just a hundred feet or so south of the border from an automobile dealer there. Our cost of production is much higher; the price we receive is much lower — it is much too low; and

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the hon. member for Souris-Estevan said that, somehow or other, it is the fault of the Saskatchewan Government that we are in economic difficulties. I think that the member for Souris-Estevan knows better and that probably he feels that he should do a little to aid and abet the cause of the Liberal group on that side of the House, in the hope that he may continue to get their support down in his constituency.

I have got a lot of Conservative friends and I get their support up in The Battlefords — yes, some of the Liberals too, incidentally. I get their support, and I think I am going to continue to get their support, and incidentally, what I have just said in reply to the member for Souris-Estevan was suggested to me by some Conservatives in that particular constituency. They suggested that I might mention it to him — that he might choose better ground to stand and fight on.

So they say they are subsidizing those farmers down south of the line; that is always the argument. They are spending millions, yes, billions of dollars in subsidizing those farmers south of the line, in order to maintain a stable agricultural economy in that country. Sure they are, and it is money well spent, and I am going to tell you just how much it costs the people of the United States. During the 17 years that Commodity Credit Corporation has been in operation it has cost, per capita, the people of the United States, 35 cents each, per year. I maintain that that is a pretty cheap price to maintain the prosperous economy that the farmers and the stockman south of a line enjoy. Walter Reuther, one of the great labour leaders in the United States, made the statement that he was all in favour of those millions and billions of dollars being paid into the farm subsidies. He said, “It is the only assurance that we, as a country and a labour force, have to avoid depression, because if we do not do this, and if we allow the farm economy to slip, we will again be heading into another farm depression. So don’t worry too much about subsidies.”

They don’t seem to be worrying on that side of the House about subsidies that have been paid to the monopolies down east. Oh no! These champions and stooges of monopoly on that side of the House are fully in accord with that type of thing; but when it comes to giving dollars and putting purchasing power into the hands of the farmers, they say, “Oh, no, we can’t possibly do that; that would put the country into debt.” But they are quite happy to pay homage to their masters, the gold industry and all the rest of the industries that were subsidized during the war and after the war.

I maintain, Mr. Speaker, it is time they got their eyes off their shoelaces and started looking to the broader horizons and try and do something before it is too late to salvage the economy of western Canada. We have, as I said earlier in my speech, been the poor relations and have been treated as a poor relations of eastern Canada too long. I think it is high time that those of you who have the intestinal fortitude on that side of the House got up and said something, and showed that we people here in western Canada form a united front, and show the people in charge of the government down there in eastern Canada — these people who have taken this vacillating attitude all through the years, an attitude which has been completely indecisive; they have been inactive and they have failed. It is high time, Mr. Speaker, that these people did take some action, and if they take that kind of action, they will get the support they need and that they are trying to buy today with a few cheap, immediate criticisms that don’t hold any water. All they have said

so far is that the people of eastern Canada and the farmers of western Canada should vote for the provincial Liberals, because the Federal Liberals, through their fiscal policy, have brought them to a state of bankruptcy. Some pretty freakish logic! But we are used to that from some quarters on that side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I have exceeded my time limit; I am sorry that I was crowded. The hon. member for Pelly (Mr. Feusi) hoped to get on the air today; I am afraid he didn't. I am sure that his contribution would have been much better than mine. However, you have been very patient and have put up with this speech and I want to say, before I sit down, that I was mighty proud when the people of The Battlefords asked me to stand as their candidate for the C.C.F. party. I was prouder still when I took my seat in this House, and I have had no reason since that time to be anything but proud to sit here under the leadership of our Premier, the Hon. T.C. Douglas. We have made mistakes — sure, we have, Mr. Speaker; but any mistakes made have been made in the honest effort of trying to build something better, and, as I said before, we have had the courage to try to do something different, instead of falling into that little narrow rut that is prescribed by the oracles of wisdom down in eastern Canada. We won't we shan't, we never will again follow those narrow groups, and we shall, I hope, keep our eyes on the broader horizons and keep looking to the future, building for the future, and make Saskatchewan continue to grow and be one of the gems in the Canadian Crown.

I will support the motion, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Arnold Feusi (Pelly): — Mr. Speaker, I am sure we have all enjoyed the capable addresses of the previous speakers, this afternoon. I feel very much like the little fellow who came late to the auction sale; there wasn't very much left but the poultry to buy. Possibly I shall have to deal a bit with the poultry, this afternoon.

The member for The Battlefords (Mr. Kramer) did mention that his seat had great historical significance. I, also, can say that Pelly constituency has historical meaning. If you can visualize, Mr. Speaker, the seat of Pelly is bisected by two rivers, the Swan and the Assiniboine, both of them rising in north-central Saskatchewan and running roughly parallel to a point where they approach each other within a distance of some 10 miles, and then diverging in each entry in a different water system, the one the Winnipegosis and the other south and east to Lake Winnipeg.

Where they come together, within the 12 miles or 10 miles, we had in the early history of white settlement to trading posts, one Fort Livingstone on the elbow of the Swan, and the other Fort Pelly, on the elbow of the Assiniboine. Between the two forts was a natural low waterway, in some parts of the year a creek, that in times of heavy flood were known to join. Evidently this was an overland or part-time portage between the two posts. I like to mention the two forts because Fort Livingstone was one of the early sites of territorial government. Fort Pelly was important as the jumping-off place for an overland route from Fort Pelly to Fort Garry. I had the privilege of using part of that old Fort Pelly-Fort Garry trail that traversed the northern section of Duck Mountain Provincial Park within the bounds of Saskatchewan. We utilized it as a patrol road.

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It was rather grim that Fort Pelly could not have been salvaged some 20 years ago. Approximately 20 years ago, Fort Pelly was almost intact. Much of the records were strewn around the old fort site. In the intervening 20 years, the records were partially destroyed; some of them were salvaged by interested settlers in the vicinity. The Norquay Historical Society has reclaimed much of the old literature — and, should my friends opposite be mistaken as to the word ‘historical’, I mean the word ‘historical’, Mr. Speaker, and not ‘hysterical’. I gather the member for Arm River (Mr. Danielson) yesterday belonged to the hysterical Society.

Also of historical significance is the fact that Kamsack became an organized community back in 1905, and Kamsack will be celebrating its 50th anniversary, this year, with the province. It is of great interest, and I think unique in the history of the west, that we should have today a mayor, the mayor of Kamsack, who officiated 50 years ago as the overseer of Kamsack. I regret very much that he is not present here, this afternoon. He is in the city of Regina, and I hoped to pay tribute to him for the long years (some of them interrupted) of service to the town and district of Kamsack.

We who are going to pay tribute, this year, to the old timers probably have in Mr. E.J. Johnson, the present mayor of Kamsack, an example of an individual whose character and honesty has been woven into the web and the woof of a community. It is interesting, that, last year, when Mr. Johnson spoke at the opening of the new St. Stephen’s Roman Catholic Church in Kamsack, he mentioned that he was also present when the original church was opened, I believe somewhere around 1912. The original church was destroyed by the 1944 cyclone, but Mr. Johnson, in mentioning the fact that he had been present at the original opening of the St. Stephen’s Church, called the attention of the audience to the fact that he has survived four bishops in the interval. I know that he did remark to the presiding archbishop that evidently the archbishop’s followers were much harder upon the clergy than the civic followers were upon mayors.

We have heard very much about the development of Saskatchewan from this side of the House. We have heard derogatory remarks from the other side. Probably due to the fact that we have got visitors from other lands here today, and I know that much of their geography does tell them, in the discussion on the western part of Canada that it is bald prairie, and I think it was registered in their minds very much before they came here that Saskatchewan or western Canada was a barrenness or an emptiness of bald prairie. I do know, when I was in the services overseas, that a little English sergeant used introduced me to his friends as “Feusi from the bald prairies”, and, of course, he had a very high forehead and he invariably rubbed the top part of that forehead to emphasize the fact of how bald the prairies were. If he could see today the development that has gone on, Mr. Speaker, the growth in our towns and our cities, the telephone and power line extensions all over the prairies, our new highways, hospitals, churches and schools, I believe he would change his mind and change his introduction of myself to his friends.

One of the interesting developments is the expansion of the telephone service on the prairies. As a matter of interest, would like to state that the town of Kamsack will probably be the 21st town or city in this province to obtain a dial telephone exchange. We are very happy, Mr. Speaker.

Much has been said by the previous speakers on problems that we in Saskatchewan have. I come from a section of Saskatchewan that has had untold hardships within the past few years. I shall dwell more upon the constituency problems and probably strike and note of pessimism. I intend to probably bring in a few points to this Assembly, this afternoon, that affects a small man of Saskatchewan, the small farmer. It is strange, after the many good crops we have had during the past years, that one failure should put many on their backs.

I come from an area known as the Garden of Saskatchewan; a very productive area, one of the best in the province. Two of the latter years' failures, due to flood and rust, have put them into such circumstances that many of them are in dire difficulty today. We know of implements being picked up; we know of implement dealers and small-store proprietors having to close up this winter, and it is rather strange that one year should set us back that much.

I would like to mention the fact that, in one of the visits up to the grimmest part of the north-east in Kelsey constituency, last year and the year before, I was in an area where you can see the water-mark on the farm houses, where the flood had left a token or mark for the community to see for the rest of the year. My territory was not quite as grim. We have a very well-drained area, not as level of land as probably further north. But we have a problem in portions of Pelly constituency, portions of Canora constituency, and, I believe, the fringe of the north or the park belt wherein many of our farmers are behind the 'eight ball' for the simple reason that they have small holdings — quarter-sections and probably at the best a half-section. Figures, not only provincial but federal, show that the small farmer has his back against the wall.

Today, we find that our quarter-section farmers not only have no spare capital to tide them over, but they have no grain on hand to tide them over to another crop year. I believe that probably economic circumstances are going to force them to alter their ways. I note, in going across the province, that we find areas where one farmer has left through economic circumstances, another one has absorbed his holdings. It is very evident north of Long Lake, the central part of the province, where every second farm home is vacant. We probably aren't faced with that in the north-west, or across the northern part of the province yet.

To solve some of these problems we have undertaken a programme of help, and I would like to thank this Government for the immediate help given, this fall. True, it was insufficient, but it was help, Mr. Speaker. I refer to the work-and-wages programme that was given by the Government in the north-east; also, the Department of Natural Resources for opening up north timber lots and stock-piling in order to bring money into the hands of our small farmers in the north.

In my territory we have undertaken, through the Department of Agriculture, a re-settlement programme. It is a very small one, but it is an assist. During the 'thirties a group of more or less in derelict farmers, people who did not have the cash, moved into a territory that was very hard to provide with roads and schools, very much cut off with water courses, and of very, very marginal value. I believe they got some of the land for \$150 to \$200. Well,

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in those years in the 'thirties, they were able to get by for the simple reason that they did have free pasture and wood and did some trapping. They got by during the 'thirties, when everyone else had corresponding hardships. But, during the latter years they have failed to gain as the neighbours across in more arable country have. We have had youngsters in those families who are of school age today, who need attention, and since they are seven and eight miles in school, we have undertaken a re-settlement programme.

I might say here, Mr. Speaker, that we have had problems and we are going to have problems dealing with re-settlement. In the area to which these folks are going to be moved, our Department of Agriculture has attempted to have a clearing made of land to give those folks a start. For two years now they have barely made a beginning. Water levels, although this country is well drained, the excessive rainfall, every second day a rainfall during much of the summer months, has delayed the programme.

Because of the economic circumstances across the north and in general throughout Saskatchewan, as the previous speaker mentioned, we have an unemployment problem, particularly in the north-west, north-east and north-central parts of the province, the park belt. There must be tens of thousands of young farmers, sons of farmers and daughters of farmers who are marking time today with their feet under their parents' tables. It is a matter of regret that, across the floor, they should call for more provincial help and not point a finger to the Federal Government from which much of this assistance should come.

I recall, last fall, when the Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent, speaking to the Reform Club in Montreal, mentioned that unemployment was a federal responsibility, and that any government unable to cope with unemployment had no right to exist as a government. Mr. Speaker, they should be calling attention to the problems as they are, and leave the blame to the Federal Government and not alone to the Provincial Government.

Our daily press in Saskatchewan, predominately Liberal, has been doing very little a bringing to the notice of the general public some of the problems that we have across the north part of the settled portion of Saskatchewan. In fact, the latter half-year, they have been devoting much of their time (and I am referring to the press) to building up a Liberal leader in the province, and I cannot help but say that they have been busy stuffing leadership straws into a little effigy from Moosomin. Mr. Speaker, true he is a promising young man; but if you follow his radio programmes, as some of us have, we agree that he is a 'promising' young man; he has promised almost everything, except the front porch and the Mace. Much of this promising has been to such a degree that it is a tremendous irresponsibility, and I believe that the thoughts that go abroad in Saskatchewan must be that they feel that this new leader does not ever hope to form a government here in Saskatchewan, because he would be unable to live up to the many promises he has made.

This irresponsibility reminds me of a little story. The story is of an elderly doctor who used to delight in tormenting some of the young nurses. It happened at this time that he came on duty in the morning, and one of these pretty young nurses had just ducked out of the baby ward where she had spent a trying time during the night. The doctor, of course, with a satanic grin on his face said, "Well, my dear, how do you like the babies, this morning?" She stamped her foot and said, "Babies! Doctor, a baby is nothing else but a

long length of alimentary canal with a loud voice at one end and no responsibility at the other.” Mr. Speaker, I can’t help but feel that this does cover our Liberal party here in Saskatchewan — a very loud voice and no responsibility.

I cannot help but recall, also, Mr. Speaker, my friend from Saltcoats constituency, who went the length and breadth of this province holding leadership meetings and, of course, he held out a prize to the contestants and a prize to the public of Saskatchewan that he had a ‘dark horse’ that was going to run in the contest. So, down our way, after thinking things over, a lot of people couldn’t help but think that this dark horse must be Mr. Rawluk.

The Liberals may attempt to pose as the farmers’ friend. All through the debate they have attempted to bring up the fact that they are the firm supporters and exponents of all that the farmer desires. I would like to bring to the attention of this House one small item — and I said I was speaking on the smaller farmer and our smaller people in Saskatchewan, this afternoon.

We recall the many times that the Hon. J.G. Gardiner exhorted the people or the farmers of Saskatchewan to go into more livestock, into hogs, into cattle, and into poultry. Many of the brighter farmers (and we have a lot of them down my way) often do the opposite, and they seem to make out better than by listening to his advice. But I recall here, a year ago, many of the small farmers went into turkey blocks and, Mr. Speaker, it is quite a problem in the wet season to raise turkeys. We found the farm housewives devoting much time to raising probably 100, 150, or 200 turkeys. In 1953 they made out pretty well; an average tom brought 35 cents a pound and probably some yielded \$8.50 straight a bird. Last year, in 1954, the Federal Government allowed subsidized American turkeys to the tune of 1 1/2 million pounds, to enter Canada and ruined the market to such an extent that the same turkey that formerly brought 35 cents a pound to these small producers, brought 25 cents a pound. Coupled with the losses they would have, the overall losses through increment weather, it made the poultry proposition one that put them ‘in the red’.

I know very many of them were discouraged. Take, for instance, a small farm family that probably have 100 turkeys. The loss from 35 to 25 cents meant around \$3.00 to \$3.50 per bird. For 100 birds that meant a loss of around \$300 to \$350. That, Mr. Speaker, would have paid many of the taxes that burden our small farmers today.

I would like to mention a point that was brought out again recently by the Secretary of the Manitoba Farmers’ Union. He was speaking of the \$200 million that was set aside in 1945 for a floor-price programme for the farmers of Canada. Very little of it had been used, and he brought to light again a fact of which we are well aware, of the egg prices. A guarantee was given on egg price. There is a floor price of 38 cents, not to the producer but to the packer. And a further 5 cents for storage. The picture across the province, or across Western Canada, the past couple of years, has been that very few of our small farmers have ever realized the 38 or 43 cents a dozen. Much of the time they were getting 15 and 16 to 20 cents a dozen.

I can’t help but draw a comparison. During these years mentioned, our gold producers were subsidized, but our small farmers were not subsidized. None of our farmers were subsidized to any amount.

I cannot help but bring to this House a parody of one of Longfellow's poems. It is a parody, Mr. Speaker, and it probably carries to your mind some of the feeling, the frustration, that goes on in the minds of some of our people in the province of Saskatchewan. This is a parody of one of Longfellow's better poems:

“Lives of poor men oft remind us
Honest toil don't stand a chance
The more we work we leave behind us
Bigger patches on our pants.”

Premier Douglas: — Poor Longfellow!

Mr. Feusi: — My apologies to Longfellow, yes. It seems, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is in his seat now. He did speak on the Trans-Canada Highway as it affected his constituency. He belittled Trans-Canada just for the fact that he has some puddles along the roadside, regardless of the type of weather that we have had during the last couple of years. There must be some peculiar thinking in the constituency of Moosomin. I know that my people in Pelly constituency would be very proud and happy to have a trans-Canada, and we have had worse flood conditions than he has had.

Mr. McDonald: — That's a matter of opinion.

Mr. Feusi: — I would like to point out to this House just what flooding we have had in Pelly constituency in the north-east, Mr. Speaker. I have here a chart that has been built from figures given by the Northern Affairs Branch of the Federal Government, and it covers the flooding of various rivers — the Assiniboine River in Saskatchewan, the English River in Ontario (the highest rivers in Canada), and it does mention the peaks of various other rivers across Canada. You will note, Mr. Speaker, that this is first — the percentage of normal stream flow; you will notice that this dark line here represents the Assiniboine River. You will notice that, in August of 1953, it reached a peak of approximately 800 per cent above normal flow. You will note again that in August of 1954, it reached a point of 930 per cent above normal. You will note here that, during the months of June, July, August and September, 1953, the Assiniboine River had no other river to compare with it in flood level. Again in June, July, August and September in 1954, the Assiniboine exceeded the flood level percentages of any other river in Canada. The only one river to compare with it was the Saugeen River just out of Toronto, where 'Hurricane Hazel' boosted that river up for a matter of a few days to flood proportions equivalent to the one we have had in the constituency of Pelly.

I mentioned that our constituency is well drained by river, and possibly I should say here that, as we clear more and more land, we are going to have greater and greater flood problems. We are going to compare more and more with the mid-central United States because, as we denude our watersheds of covering foliage of the forests, by turning more land into agriculture, we hasten the spring run-off. These watercourses in many years gone by had handled the run-off over a period of many weeks. Due to the overhang of the trees, the shadow of the tree prevents the snow from melting rapidly, and it thus melts away in a matter of weeks. The watercourses could take the water in. Nowadays, of course, the watercourses must take the water in a few days; hence we are having greater and greater flood problems.

I would just like to recall to the memory of this House some of the problems that I have very fresh in mind of what I went through last summer, along with various other officials, the Ag. Rep. and some of the town officials, in regard to the flood in and around the town of Kamsack. We were isolated for possibly a week, and we had a rural area that was isolated between a week and two weeks. I remember, the federal man being out and taking the flood levels of the Assiniboine. I recall him standing on the bridge, and we have a very sound and substantial bridge west of town, built by this Government. There was much criticism at the time because the flood levels reach the base of the bridge. It came up about a foot or two feet on the main structure; it never did reach the floor of the bridge. Anyone standing on the bridge could feel the impact of any traffic touching the bridge. As soon as a car or a vehicle hit the bridge you could feel the impact of the movement or the weight of the vehicle on the bridge, and there were more comments at the time by people who, I think, must have something wrong with them mentally. They could not help but, sort of in a joyous mood, criticized the construction of the bridge; that this Government did not know what it had been doing when they build that bridge, and they sort of wished or they expressed the sentiment, that they would like to see the bridge go down.

There are people in the province today, who take a satanical delight in belittling some of the problems that government has had and the problems that some of the people in the province have, and try to make political propaganda out of it. I know they did it with the Landing bridge across the Saskatchewan, a matter of a year or two ago. I would like to point out to these people who were criticizing the bridge west of Kamsack, that that bridge would withstand many times the flood that we had. The fact is that, in a concrete bridge, you have expansion joints; and because of expansion joints you can feel vehicle weights coming onto the bridge and leaving the bridge. So much for thoughtless citizens. I mention this fact because I believe very much of the irresponsible display across on the other side of the House has been to probably capture a lot of thoughtless votes in the next election.

I recall going out at various times during the night and during the day to check levels with some of our town officials, and to watch the flooding. We have a settled area south of Kamsack that is in the territory known as 'the flats', and there was danger of probably loss of life. I know I had a committee in to see me, after I had just come back from visiting the west bridge, asking me to go down to the south bridge. The water then was pouring from the Assiniboine River, across Highway No. 8, approximately a half-mile in length and probably a foot in depth. Some of the small homeowners that resided on the flats had their yards within probably two feet of water levels; their yards were little oases or islands, and they were very much worried. They had their stock in their yards. They didn't know what was going to happen. They knew that the flood crest had not reached there yet, and somebody put the idea into their heads that we should use a bulldozer and cut Highway No 8. Now, we pondered it very much, and the delegation was very disagreeable.

The R.C.M.P. at that time had a car with a radio in it, and we spoke to the highway engineer who, at the time, was present at a serious breach in Highway No. 10 west of Yorkton. He was devoting much of his time there, because it meant saving a portion of our blacktop. Fortunately there was a mounted police patrol car there as well, and we were able to reach the highway engineer and ask for permission, if necessary, to cut No. 8 Highway. Of course, he pointed out to us the fact that he would give us permission, but we were to

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weigh every factor before we did.

We saw the fact that, if the river did rise very much more, the extent of flooding would carry on over probably another quarter of a mile of highway and probably the highway would carry a great deal of the water, and we could not see that the water levels could rise that much that it would endanger these homes. Hence, of course, we held out. In fact, in order to soften the ire of my friends, I did take them to my home and I sort of stalled for a time. I was very fortunate in having a jug of wine on hand, Mr. Speaker, and it helped. But I evaded the issue until the next morning, and then they were down my neck again. Some of the language used was very strong and probably I was very fortunate in having the bulk that I have, because otherwise I might have fared badly. But, we were wise in not cutting the highway, because there was very little damage done to the highway or the homes.

Some years before, evidently, Highway No. 5 west of town, was cut in order to allow excess flooding to go through the breach in the highway. But the damage done to a highway, to the bed, especially with continuous rainfall, does prevent repair work, because what you have or breach in the road, to make the repair is a terrific task. The highway, though it acted to a certain extent as a dam, also was passable for much of the flood period when there was a foot of water going across it.

I would like to point out another problem, Mr. Speaker, I mentioned a rural area that was flooded and isolated for a matter of a week to two weeks. These people had a real problem. The Farmers' Union district, the Union Lodge of Lillyvale, composes half a municipal division between the White Sand and Assiniboine Rivers. At the height of the flooding, or very near the height of the flooding, the T.B. van was located in Kamsack. I know that this settlement attempted to get out to the T.B. clinic. There were three bridges, one across the White Sand and two across the Assiniboine, that never before in their history had been flooded as they were at that time. The people were able to arrive at the approaches of the bridges and, mind you, only one of them was passable that they felt they could safely navigate; but they couldn't do so with their cars. One of the farmers had followed with a very high-wheeled tractor, and the citizens ganged up into their cars and turned off the switch so as not to dampen the motor, and the tractor pulled him across one by one.

There was very great danger there, because these were pile bridges. They arrived at Kamsack and went to the clinic, which took some hour or two of time, during which a cloudburst set in. Then they had to make their way back home the same way. Probably their homes were a matter of only 10 miles from Kamsack; but the long roundabout way to get across is one bridge that was still open to them, must have made around 50 miles, and I understand they made it back the next morning around 4 o'clock.

We were very much worried that there probably would be loss of life. The next day they were on the 'phone and wished to arrange with me a time to walk the river banks to find another bridge site. Though they have three bridges, they wanted to find another bridge site. We did walk the river; but through walking the river were able to cool them down to a certain extent.

The year previously they also had flood conditions, but not quite as bad; but at that time they were satisfied and agreed that, if the Minister of Highways would assist with the flood bridge on the flats adjacent to one of the Assiniboine Bridges, that would care for their needs. Of course, it took some very long-headed talking to some of these individuals who are very much excited, and we convinced them that they would have to abide by what had already been built. I would like to mention here that the bridge that the Minister of Highways had put in, the flood bridge on the flats, you couldn't see it at all when the floods were at their peak. The gulls, I believe, used the top railing, and even then got their tails wet in the water.

After the waters subsided, the people went together (and it is a very fine community, an aggressive community) and attempted to get some assistance from three sources. The bridge was within the confines of a Indian Reserve, which is more or less, Federal territory. The half-mile flats that had to be built up were within the confines of the Indian Reserve and federal territory. The previous year we had put in a pile bridge across the flats with the assistance of the Department of Highways and two municipalities, the one municipality in which half the division resided in the other municipality across which the people had to go to get to the highway and in which the Reserve was situated. It is rather interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, how these people work together and of course, promise of assistance was obtained from each of the municipalities; a promise of assistance was obtained from the Minister of Highway; and the promise of assistance was obtained from the Department of Indian Affairs through their agents. Towards fall, the rain ceased and they were able to get work done. We were fortunate in getting a good contractor, and all the earth had to be moved, Mr. Speaker, every foot of the way across the bridges, from both sides; one side was the Assiniboine bridge and the other side was the flats bridge. It all had to be carried by B.G. and a very good job was done. I think the half-mile flats were raised some two to three feet.

Then came the time for payment, and the Department of Highways came through with their grant; the municipalities had their money on hand; but the Department of Indian Affairs stalled. They had an excuse. First, they thought it was not wise for them to come through because the Farmers Union Lodge had approached the federal member who happened to be a C.C.F. member and, of course, he had good friendly relations with the Department of Indian Affairs, and he approached them and asked for assistance because this was right in the centre of an Indian Reserve and it was a project that they utilized or used as well. The Lodge put the Indian Agent on the spot and he hedged for a bit, and then said he was going to attempt to get some help from a Federal Indian Social Welfare fund. Time dragged, and they went after him again, and he came through with a story that he could not get any assistance there. The final story was that he put the onus on the Indians — that they would not agree to it. But a strange thing, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Indian Affairs built a new school along that road since, and yet they subscribed nothing towards the venture.

I would just like to point out here that when our Liberal friends across the way promise grants, promise reconstruction of bridges, that it is all so much hot air. We have proven right in Pelly constituency where we had a Liberal organization — a Liberal government, a C.C.F. government, yes, and municipal government mixed in together, that it was the municipal government and the provincial government that paid the shot.

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Hon. J.T. Douglas: — Hear, hear! It's an old story.

Mr. Feusi: — I am happy that that job was completed. The citizens are very happy, and they know down in that area what the score is.

Mr. Speaker, I have probably carried forth for some time. I would just like to mention an item of interest that is prominent in the constituency at the present time.

The officials of P.F.R.A. recently had a meeting in the town of Kamsack and expounded a theory on the control of the flooding of the Swan and the Assiniboine rivers and that was most interesting. We believe that the programme has merits, and if you can think back with me and recall the bend in the Assiniboine River where the Assiniboine and Swan approach each other to probably within 10 miles, that there was low land between the two of them at the elbow. I believe in the early history of western Canada we have information obtained from Indian source, probably, that the Swan or the Assiniboine, when under flood conditions, one has overflowed through this low level land into the other. I think the programme or the plan put forth by the P.F.R.A. people that they are working on at the present time, is that they are going to build two dams: one dam up in the head waters of the Swan, just about a mile from the edge of settlement. In the valley of the upper Swan, a lake would be formed and the spring flood waters of the Swan would be held back within the confines of that lake. A similar dam or a smaller dam would be put in the Assiniboine at the elbow and force the upper flooding of the Assiniboine to go across into the Swan, and therefore, divide the flooding of the Assiniboine into two river channels. Once the crest of the flooding was passed, they could then slowly open the dam up — that is, they could open the Assiniboine dam and let the water take its natural route, then open the Swan dam and throughout the summer have a control flow of water coming off the upper watersheds of the Swan.

We believe very strongly that the project has merits, and we hope that they go forward with it. I do hope, Mr. Speaker, that they don't make a political football, a political issue of it again such as they did with the South Saskatchewan dam. The South Saskatchewan has even more merit for the province of Saskatchewan and for western Canada than this little project has; but I just want to outline to the House of what is being proposed because I know that (well, I was almost ready to bet my hat) that this is more or less a political hoax. But the more I look into it, it has such merits and need, that I hope the officials go through with it, and more power to them if they do.

Last, but not least, Mr. Speaker, before I mention that I shall support the Throne Speech, I would like to mention within the length of my voice (which is not very far here, this afternoon, since I have got 'mike' junior here) that I would like to commend the Throne Speech to every citizen of Saskatchewan for the breadth of coverage that it has. I believe that we must probably sympathize with the Opposition in this, that they have been away from governments for such a length of time that they have not got an idea or the foggiest notion of the magnitude of government in Saskatchewan today. With that, Mr. Speaker, I shall support the motion.

Mr. R.H. Wooff: — Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to adjourn the Debate.

(Debate adjourned)

The Assembly adjourned at 6 o'clock p. m.