

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Third Session — Twelfth Legislature
3rd Day

Monday, February 14, 1955

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

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Motion for Address-in-Reply

Mr. F.A. Dewhurst (Wadena): — Mr. Speaker, today in rising to move the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, it is not only an honour and a privilege for myself, but it is also an honour for the constituency of Wadena. Today being St. Valentine's day, I think we will have a very loving time of it here this afternoon; at least I hope so.

On this occasion, in moving this Address, I take it not as a personal triumph for myself, but rather as an honour on behalf of the constituency of Wadena. It is some time since a member from the Wadena constituency has had the privilege to move the Address in this House. In checking back I find in the records that, in 1917, Mr. MacMillan, who then sat in this Legislature as a Liberal member, moved the Address of that year; it was seconded by Mr. Gamble of Bengough. That is the only occasion in the 50 years' history of this province until today, Mr. Speaker, that a member from Wadena, on behalf of the Wadena constituents, has had the privilege of moving or seconding the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

In 1905, Wadena was not then a constituency in this Legislature, there were only 25 seats in the province. Wadena became a constituency in 1908. The first member to represent the Wadena constituency was Mr. H. Pierce and, incidentally, where I live now is only a mile from where Mr. Pierce lived when he was a member of this House. Mr. Pierce was followed in this Legislature by Mr. MacMillan. Mr. MacMillan was a very progressive thinking man in his ways. He made a mark for himself in this House and later, when he was at Ottawa, he was quite forward and outspoken in his thoughts. I am sure, if Mr. MacMillan were sitting in this House today, with the forward view he held some 40 years ago, that he would be far ahead of the colleagues he had in that day, and he would be today sitting with this group on the side of the House.

Mr. MacMillan was followed in this Legislature by Mr. McKinnon who was elected as a Progressive in 1921. In 1925, he ran on a Liberal ticket. He told the people of the Wadena constituency he could not accomplish much for them as a Progressive, but as a Liberal he could do far more for them; and, Mr. Speaker, and he was elected in 1925, but the Liberals have never since had the Wadena constituency.

I would like at this time, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate hon. member for Moosomin (Mr. McDonald) on his elevation to the office as Leader of the Opposition. Since the last time we met in this Chamber, the party opposite, the official opposition, has seen fit once again to change the leadership of their party, and Mr. McDonald, the member for Moosomin, has been chosen by his colleagues and his supporters throughout this province to be their leader in this House. I hope he will be able to continue to occupy that

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office for a good many years to come. Mr. McDonald is the fourth Leader of the Opposition the Liberals have had in this House in the past 10 years, so I sincerely hope he will enjoy more years of leadership than his predecessors have done. If I may make one prediction, Mr. Speaker, I would say that he may find himself in much the same position as the little chap who worked at a factory. Each day this little chap used to take his lunch with him, and every day when he opened his lunch kit he found he had salmon sandwiches and he didn't like salmon sandwiches; so one of his pals said to him one day, "If you don't like salmon, why don't you talk to your wife about it?" "You leave my wife out of this" he replied, "I make my own lunch." So, Mr. Speaker, the member from Moosomin as Leader of the Opposition from now on, will be able to make his own sandwiches to suit himself.

I am glad it is time to see that the member for Shellbrook (Mr. Larsen) is back in this House and is enjoying good health. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, when this House adjourned last spring, the member for Shellbrook was then quite sick in a hospital in this city, and all of us, on both sides of the House, sincerely hoped and wished him a good recovery. I am glad to see, today, the member back in his usual place, in his usual form and fettle.

Mr. Speaker, this also is our Golden Jubilee year for Saskatchewan and, as was pointed out in the Speech from the Throne, elaborate plans have been made for a celebration of our Golden Jubilee. Saskatchewan is rather a huge place; we have a big province here. It is far larger than the average person realizes. Many people have lived in this province for many years and have never realized the size of our province. When one considers that Saskatchewan is as big as the United Kingdom and Germany, with Belgium thrown in for good measure, one realizes that we have quite a good-sized province here. It may be a very difficult name for outsiders to pronounce, but I can assure you that it is a very easy province for the school pupils to draw a picture of; we have a very compact, neat province.

Most people think of Saskatchewan is just huge prairie — a prairie province. That we are one of the three prairie provinces is correct, but only approximately one-third of the province prairie; one-third, roughly, is covered by forest, and the other third is the pre-Cambrian Shield. The name 'Saskatchewan' comes from the Indian Cree name meaning 'Swifter Flowing', deriving from Saskatchewan river which is a swift flowing river. Saskatchewan, roughly, is 335 miles wide on the average, and 760 miles long, making a quarter-of-a-million square miles in the province, so we have a very nice-sized province.

It hasn't been until recent years that the north of this province started to come into its own. It isn't very long back when you talked to people, and they would think of Prince Albert or Nipawin as being in the northern part of a province; but you and I know, Mr. Speaker, that Prince Albert and Nipawin are both in the southern half of the province; in fact Lac La Ronge is just about half way north within the province. It gives people of the southern part of the province an idea of how far are northern boundary is, when Lac La Ronge just about centre way.

This year, also, there is going to be another great occasion for the Golden Jubilee and that will be the opening, by His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, of the Natural History Museum, which will be opened some time this summer. I do not think the date has been set, as yet, for the opening, but His Excellency will be here to open the Museum. Saskatchewan being rich in natural history, I think it is most fitting, and I

would like to congratulate the Government and the Minister in charge for building that Museum as Saskatchewan's monument to our Golden Jubilee anniversary. It is far more becoming, in my estimation, Mr. Speaker, that we should have a building like that put up for all-time recognition as Saskatchewan's part in her own Golden Jubilee celebration than to build some monument or statue of bronze or clay or stone or any other type of monument. This is a building which can be used not only by the people of the province today, but for many, many years to come. With the naturally rich history that we have in this province, I am sure that people will find it very interesting. I know I shall, at every opportunity, try to persuade my constituents, any time they come to Regina, to take advantage of a trip through the Museum, because I am sure it will be worthwhile after it is opened.

I am sure that the work which is going on now out around Mortlach, where they are bringing up relics of the remains of a civilized nation that existed here some 3,000 years ago, will be most interesting in years to come when that story can be told in our Museum. Another thing that is of interest to this province is the table which we have in the Library in this building. We have in our Library the Confederation table—a thing that is not known to widely throughout this province. I am sure that when the boys and girls attending school read about Confederation they sometimes wonder where that table is, but they never think to inquire. That table is right in this building in our Library. That table is now over 100 years old. It was used first, in Quebec, by the 'Fathers' of Confederation, then transferred to Ottawa where the Confederation was signed; later it was sent to Battleford which was the seat of the Government of the North-West Territories for three years, from 1878 to 1881, and later it was sent to Regina where it is at this time. I am sure that any visitors wishing to come to the Building here to see that table, or any groups of school children, if they will contact Mr. Archer, our librarian, he would be only too pleased to give them all the co-operation possible answer any questions they would like to ask, and show them the many interesting things we have in our Library in the province of Saskatchewan. We have in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, one of the best Provincial Libraries to be found in any Legislature in Canada.

Saskatchewan is predominately an agricultural province, but the richness of Saskatchewan is not in agriculture alone. Saskatchewan's strength is in agriculture and industry. Office workers, school teachers, and all types of working people besides those engaged in agriculture, play an equal part in making Saskatchewan a better place where each and every one of us may live. Saskatchewan has come a long way in the past 50 years, but I am sure, with the continued coordination and effort of working together of farmer and labourer, that we will go further in the next 50 years than we have come in the past 50 years.

In the last 10 years Saskatchewan has seen considerable development in various types of industry. Ten years ago, in this province, we produced no oil whatsoever; today, Mr. Speaker, as was mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, we are producing over five million barrels of oil per year. We produced over five million barrels of oil in 1954, and it is expected, now that the Fosterton pipeline is completed, that in the present year we will produce in the neighbourhood of ten million barrels of oil. That is considerable progress over the past few years, progress which this province has long been denied, but is now coming into its own. While it is true that we do not yet have the oil production of Alberta, who knows what this year holds for us; who knows but that, within a few years we may be producing equally as much as Alberta, or perhaps more? We have a larger potential area for oil production than Alberta.

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On the 11th of February, as is shown by this Table, which was tabled in the House the other day by the Minister of Natural Resources, on the oil production in the province, we had over 1,100 wells capable of producing oil in this province. That is a considerable amount of work which has been done in the past few years. It shows that the Minister of Natural Resources has consistently given good leadership and guidance to his Department to see that oil exploration has been carried on at the greatest possible pace and, at the same time, he has taken all the necessary safeguards to protect the welfare of the people of this province.

Also, today, Mr. Speaker, we have one of our major cities being served by natural gas. We had only a very few individual centres a few years ago, that were served with gas; just a few places around Kamsack. During this past few years, however, our natural gas production has been greatly increased until today between the 9,500 to 10,000 customers are enjoying the benefits of natural gas from the Saskatchewan Power Corporation and this number is being added to each year. When the trans-Canada gas pipeline is completed in put through this country, the citizens of Moose Jaw and Regina and other centres will also be in a position to enjoy the benefits of natural gas; that includes Swift Current and some of the eastern points as well, Mr. Speaker. This is going to make a better living standard. It is true that it will be many years before farmers will be able to enjoy the benefits of natural gas, but the more of these things that we can bring into the province, even if the farmer is not able to enjoy them, if we can get them into the urban centres, being a natural resource of the province, the use of that natural gas will help to create more wealth within the province, and it will help to make a better living standard for rural and urban people alike.

We have, during the past ten years, done a great deal towards bringing development to this province. I would just like briefly to run over some of the developments which has taken place. While I have mentioned it many times before in this House, Mr. Speaker, I think these things bear repeating because many times they are too often forgotten.

One of the things which has received a lot of criticism, both inside and outside his House, is our sodium sulphate plant at Chaplin, and of the sodium sulphate branch of the Crown Corporation in charge of minerals. The sodium sulphate at Chaplin lay there for many years; it wasn't put there in your time or mine, and Mr. Speaker; but has been there for many, many years. It was not developed at all until this Government had the vision and courage to endeavour to develop our natural resources to assist the people of this province. It is one of the things which, in my opinion, should be developed, because Saskatchewan has the only commercial deposits of sodium sulphate in Canada, and having those deposits we should see that they are developed. I know I have often read in the papers, when the plant at Chaplin has closed down in order to clean it out and fix things up again ready for production, accounts reading "sodium sulphate plant closed down", but before the ink was dry in the paper that plans was once again producing. So I think the people of this province realize that those industries are here to stay and are helping to give employment to the workers of this province and, in turn, the more industrial workers we can encourage to stay in this province, the greater is the market for our agricultural products.

Another development which has taken place in this province, one which I think will be of great importance to our economy in the future, is our potash deposit. I can recall sitting in this Legislature when Mr. Phelps, who was then that Minister of Natural Resources, made the announcement in this

House that potash had been discovered. He described it as one of the great discoveries of our time, and at that time he was laughed at and made fun of in the press to some extent, on the terms in which he described the discovery of potash. But I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the day will be here in the not-too-distant future when potash will mean a lot to the economy of this province. We have now a mine at Unity which will be in production before too long; there is another one east of Saskatoon which is in the process of sinking a shaft. Neither of these two places are producing potash as yet, but they will be in the not-to-distant future. Several companies are coming into the province exploring the possibility of potash, and I am sure that in a few years to come, we will see that potash is big business. We have, so far, the only known deposits of potash in Canada. It may, when thoroughly explored, extend slightly into Manitoba in the east, or into Alberta on the west; but Saskatchewan does have a huge bed of potash, and I am sure it will give employment for hundreds and maybe thousands of people in the future in this province.

Another thing which is helping to give employment to labour of this province is the salt mine at Unity. We have a very good salt mine at Unity which is being developed, and I think each and every one of us, when we buy packages of salt, if we look at the package we will see that a lot of the salt we are using every day on our table comes from Unity, right from within our own province. Those are things I am glad to see happening, Mr. Speaker, when we can develop our own products and supply employment here for our own people.

We have other activities in the north, such as around the Beaver Lodge area, at Uranium City, where we have our uranium mines. Production is starting in some of them; some are working underground and others are preparing to go underground to produce uranium. Uranium is a very valuable ore and as far as is known so far, we have Canada's greatest deposits of uranium.

We have in the North tremendous reserves of base metals also. The only ones that have been developed much in the past have been the base metals in Flin Flon which lie on the Saskatchewan side. But, due to the Prospectors' Assistance plan that is being carried on by the Department of Natural Resources, assistance has been given to prospectors by holding prospectors' schools and helping them financially and other ways to get equipment to go into the north to look for minerals and to be able to help to develop the north. Many of these prospectors, having had a chance to go to the schools, recognize the different minerals when they come in contact with them. Before, prospectors may have gone into the north looking for a given mineral and run across half-a-dozen different kinds of minerals, not being able to identify them when they saw them. So, today we are seeing that North come into its own, and I dare say that, in the next 25 years in the northern half of this province, the amount of wealth it will be producing will be phenomenal compared to what it is producing at the present time.

Our forest management programme in this province is one, I think, each and every one of us should be justly proud of. According to all forest experts, not just of this Government, Mr. Speaker, but those who should know what they are talking about, if the forest had been cut in this province at the rate it was cut during the war years, within a short period of years after the war our forest would have been a thing of the past as a commercial operation. But, through the sustained yield and management programmes which are being carried on, and by putting the lumber industry on a firm basis, we

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can look forward to lumbering for many, many years to come in the timber belts of this province, because forest management is being carried on it every chance. I think every member of this House will say that it is good if we can preserve our forests so that generations to come will have the benefit of these forests. I, along with other members of this House, would like to ask the people of this province to do everything they can to help prevent the deliberate waste and destruction of our forests by fires and other hazards which do deplete our forests. The fire hazard is one of the things which has taken more of the forests of Canada as a whole than any other factor. Many fires are started by human carelessness and not by an act of nature. So, if each of us co-operate fully I feel that we can preserve our forests for future generations far more in the future than we have done in the past.

To help the workmen of this province we have plywood factories now producing plywood. They are industries that haven't been in this province too many years; but at the present time negotiations are going on to bring a pulp mill into this province to produce pulpwood and maybe also some types of paper. That has not become an established fact yet, but steps are being taken to encourage that type of industry to come to the province.

Besides those things, Mr. Speaker, we have a number of private industries which have come to this province. We have a garment manufacturing industry at Moose Jaw. In Regina we have electric transformers being made. Also, the Ford and Chrysler companies have put huge depots here for repair parts for their cars. Those all create work for labour which means a market for agriculture, because any time we have everybody working we have more people consuming agricultural products.

In addition to those things telephones have made tremendous gains this past few years. The extension of telephones has been phenomenal, and I am sure that Minister of Telephones, before this Session closes, will give us all a summary and up-to-date view of what has happened in the Department of Telephone; so I will not go into it at this time.

Insurance, too, has done a lot to stabilize the economy of this province. The fire insurance rates which we enjoy in this province are the lowest of any on the North American continent. The general insurance rates are equal or second to none any place on the North American continent. While it is true that you can take your fire insurance on your house with the Government Insurance Office, or any private insurance company you wish, whether you get your insurance from the Government Insurance Office or not, the Government Insurance office are still making the insurance on your home cheaper because it is in operation. The Government Insurance Office has brought down the premiums on every policy which has been issued in this province, and I am sure that in the years to come the trail they have blazed in the past will only be a small part of what will be done in the future.

I was very pleased, a week or two ago, when the Provincial Treasurer was able to announce to the people of this province that, due to a decrease in accidents and better driving habits of the province as a whole, the insurance rates were being reduced all the way from 20 to 60 per cent under the Automobile Accident Insurance Act. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the people of this province will continue in the future, as they did this past year, to co-operate further so that next year once again, I hope, the Provincial Treasurer will be able to announce another reduction in the Automobile Accident Insurance Act rates.

Another thing which has been of great importance to this province has been the Power Corporation. We have today, in this province, more than 110,000 customers getting their power from the Saskatchewan Power Corporation. Those 110,000 customers include over 25,000 farms. Plans are now made for another 7,500 farms to be added to that list this coming year, and they are hoping, in 1956, to be able to add another 7,500 farms, so that will bring the total number of farms enjoying electric power up to around 40,000. The accomplishments of the Power Corporation have been very huge. When you stop to consider, Mr. Speaker, that 10 years ago there were less than 500 farms in this province that were served by the Saskatchewan Power Commission, or any other individual private power companies — 10 years ago they had a number of private power companies, but, altogether, there were less than 500 farms receiving power. I think it was 135, or in that neighbourhood, which were served by this Saskatchewan Power Commission; but today there are 25,000 farms receiving power from the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, and another 7,500 immediately planned for this year. This has meant a tremendous amount of work for the people working for the Saskatchewan Power Corporation.

I find that we now have over 18,450 miles of distribution lines which serve farmers and so on, and another 7,000 miles of highline. When you speak of that in terms of thousands of miles, just what does it mean? I would like to give you one or two examples just how many miles of line that really means. If we had to take that 18,450 miles of distribution line and string it end to end, we would go across the province of Saskatchewan over 51 times from one border to the other. The 7,000 miles of highline would extend across this province 21 times. Or, another way I would like to give you an example — it is 3,000 air miles from Halifax to Vancouver. If you take the highline, started out at Vancouver, you can build a highline from Vancouver to Halifax, back to Vancouver and back as far as Regina, and you could do that considerably more times with the power line because we have 18,000 miles of distribution line to 7,000 miles of high tension line. If you take the two together, Mr. Speaker, the highline and the distribution line, and put them end to end, you can build a line clean around this earth at the Equator. When you consider, Mr. Speaker, that the Saskatchewan Power Corporation has built a power line clean around at the Equator, it shows that it has been a very huge operation.

In 1954, Mr. Speaker, we saw setback in the agricultural economy of this province. This last year we had one of the worst crops we have had in our history for many years. The conditions in the north-east were, I think, the worst of any place in the province. Conditions up there were really serious for many of the farmers whom I have the privilege to represent, beside the farmers who are to the east and north of me. The Government of the province was not unaware of the problem which existed out there. They put on work-and-wage projects to help to give those people work and wages to help themselves, because they had absolutely no crop. Many of them would never have been able to seed an acre of land. So the work and wages was very much appreciated by the people of the northern part of this province; much more so when most people realize that, a few years ago, when they had disaster and difficulties with their crop, there was no work-and-wage programme for them to help to keep them going. Their only way of survival a few years ago was straight relief. They had to go to the municipality, apply for relief and the municipality would ask the Government to help them out. But, I am glad to say that the Government of the Saskatchewan today has spent many thousands of dollars today in the northern part of this province to alleviate the situation.

On October 12th, I believe, a thing which is unique in the history of this province happened at Tisdale. Some 12 or 14 municipalities met in Tisdale; four Ministers of the Government were also at that meeting,

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along with the various private members who were affected in that area. The member for Tisdale was there; the member for Nipawin was there; I was there myself, and the four Ministers, Mr. Brockelbank, Mr. McIntosh, Mr. J.T. Douglas and Mr. Nollet. One of the municipal men got up there and he said he has served on a council for many, many years in this province, but that was the first time in his recollection that any government at any time had ever come out to the field to meet the municipal representatives, rather than the municipalities having to come all the way to Regina. I want to assure this House, Mr. Speaker, that the people at that meeting greatly appreciated it.

The Department of Agriculture has been giving considerable assistance in the north-east to drainage. While they have not solved all the problems, I know the people of the north-east know they are going to get continued interest and active support from the Department in this coming year. Also, another thing that was greatly appreciated by the people of the north-east — and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those people in the south-west — and that is for the free potatoes which were donated to the people of the north-east by people from the Big Beaver-Rockglen area. A carload donated by those people went to McKague. Another carload of potatoes was donated around Assiniboia district and shipped to Hudson Bay. A third carload was assembled at Shaunavon and shipped to Crooked River; and the fourth carload from Rush Lake went to Carragana. Those people up there very much appreciate those potatoes because they realized that they had none whatsoever, and they did not have the money to buy potatoes; so I can assure the people of the south-west that the people of the north-east appreciate your generosity.

During the 'thirties when the South was dried out, we were then in a position where we could donate and send fresh vegetables from the north to the south. Well, I hope the south will never be dried out again as they were in the 'thirties; but I know the people of the north, if they are blessed with vegetable gardens, will only be too glad to help out the people of the south-west again, if the people of the south find themselves in the position of needing them.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture in this province, as I have said, has been our stand-by. While we have produced five average crops this past three years, we have also at the same time had high crop expenses as well as high crop production — in fact, we have had more than that. I went over a table which was prepared by the Searle Grain Company and, by taking their table, I don't think anyone in this House could say I was taking a table which was prepared for my side of the argument, Mr. Speaker. I find, when we take the period 1935 to 1939 (of the Dominion Government price controls and so on) take that as 100; when we take that price, we find that in two years, 1936-37, and 1937-38 crop years, we did receive over the cost of production in those two years. But, taking that five-year period as the basis, I find that ever since 1925 (you can go back as far as 1925), taking the price of No. 1 grain at Fort William or Port Arthur, and deduct from the Fort William price the elevator handling charges, I find that ever since 1925 to the present time there have only been two years, according to the Dominion's own way of looking at the price relationship, in which we have received more than the cost of production. In 1945 and again in 1946 we did get over the cost of production. I do not have the figures available for the present crop year because all the participation payments are not made; but in the 1952-1953 year, for the amount of money we are getting now on our wheat, we are only receiving 80 cents on the dollar in comparison to what we had in 1935-1939. Our wheat price has fallen that much, because our cost of production is getting to be too high.

If you take 1945-46 and use that as 100, you will find, Mr. Speaker, that the cost of agricultural production has gone up so greatly that we only get today 55 cents where we received \$1.00 in 1945. In other words, our wheat today should be considerably higher than it was in 1945, if we are going to keep pace with the cost of production.

This province produces over 50 per cent of all cereal grains produced in Canada. When you realize those things, Mr. Speaker, you will realize why agriculture is so important to the economy of this province. When the Federal Government allows the price structure to fall so much below the cost of production, we are today only receiving 55 cents on the \$1.00, as we did at the end of the war when the price controls were removed, that will explain to you why, in the north-east and in other parts of this province, as soon as the farmers have one bad crop they find themselves in the plight where they do not have enough money to carry on, and municipalities have to invoke the Seed Grain and Supply Act to give assistance to those people.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention many other things which were mentioned in the Throne Speech, today, but time does not permit me to cover them all. But I am sure they will be dealt with fully by other speakers before this debate is over.

I would, however, like to refer to be Speech from the Throne where it talks about teacher supply. I am glad to note that the teacher supply in this province is improving. I am also glad to note that the Speech from the Throne mentioned that an increase in school grants was going to be proposed at this Session. From checking the records I find that, in 1944, the total cost of education in this province was a little over \$14 million. Grants at that time amounted to a little better than 19 per cent of the total cost of education. In the last year figures are available for, 1953-54, the amount spent in this province on education was over \$34 million, and the amount of grants amounted to a little over 26 per cent of that \$34 million. So, in other words, the grants have gone up percentage wise and otherwise, both, Mr. Speaker. And last year — a year ago now — an addition of a million dollars was voted by this Legislature for grants for schools, and once again I am pleased to note that further assistance will be given to education this year.

It is true that our educational costs have gone up a lot these last few years, but there are many reasons for that, Mr. Speaker. When you stop to analyze the cost of farming and other branches of endeavour, you will realize that education had to go up if the teachers of this province were going to get a fair break along with any other worker, and along with the farmers. Teachers' wages, prior to 1944, were pitifully low, and many teachers had money coming from school districts which they had not been able to collect. Those things are now rectified. The teachers do get their money, and they get a far better salary; and today we are not out of line with the salaries paid teachers and other parts of Canada. I do not think many parents, who want to see the welfare of their children protected, would suggest for a moment that we moved back to the type of pay our teachers were getting a few years ago, so that we would lose our teachers to other professions.

Today, I find a number of people who believe their school taxes are too high. They say, "we do not have the money to pay them." But why don't they have the money to pay the taxes, Mr. Speaker? I will tell you why they don't have it. In 1945, we farmers could buy the best self-propelled combine for \$3,000. Today at the same combine costs \$6,000. That combine, Mr. Speaker, has gone up by over \$3,000. Now, if you have an assessment on your farm of \$10,000, the increased costs of that combine means that, in order to buy

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a combine now, you must pay an additional 30 mills of tax on your farm assessed at \$10,000, in order to pay that the increased cost of the combine, and that is over a period of 10 years — 30 mills for 10 years. If you take the cost of that combine over one year then you would have to tax your farm 300 mills for that year. That is only one piece of equipment. When we take into consideration the tractors, cultivators, the seed drills, discers and the rest of the machinery that goes to build up the farm unit, you will realize that we are paying in increased costs for farm machinery, enough to pay our school taxes for many years to come. I realize that it is perhaps necessary for implements to cost more than they did 10 years ago, but I cannot agree that they should be double what they were 10 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, a year ago, in this House, this Legislature voted over 50 per cent of its budget to three departments — Health, Education and Social Welfare. I believe that this Legislature was justified a year ago in doing that. If those three departments can look after the health, welfare and education of the people of this province, if we can give the young people of this province a chance to have good health, good education and see that those in need of social welfare and assistance may get that assistance, I think we are doing a lot to help young people to be able to go out into the province in later years to make their own way in the channels of industry or business or whatever profession they may choose.

Saskatchewan is very rich in its culture. We have people in this province from almost every European country, besides from the Asiatic countries. It is very interesting to know, Mr. Speaker, that we were the first province in the Dominion of Canada (and there is only one other now besides us) to place on our statute books a Bill of Rights. We guarantee to the people of this province, by legislation, freedom of right of assembly, freedom to worship as they see fit, and we guarantee that there will be no persecution in regard to creed, colour, race or religion, giving the people of this province security. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that every province in Canada should have a Bill of Rights, and the Dominion of Canada should have a Bill of Rights. The Dominion of Canada is a member of the United Nations. The United Nations have a Bill of Rights which they would like to see every country adopt as their Bill of Rights throughout this whole universe. Canada, as yet, has not seen fit to adopt a Bill of Rights, but until the day comes when we can have a Bill of Rights in our own Dominion of Canada, how can we expect other countries, who have had less years of experience in democratic government than we have had in this country, to adopt a Bill of Rights for their countries?

I believe the time is long past when we should have social justice for everybody, regardless of where they live, whether they are on the side of the Atlantic or Pacific, or on the other side. We should live together as a brotherhood for all this universe. There is lots of space here for all of us. I believe it is possible to produce enough food and shelter and clothing for all of us on this earth, and we should have lots of time left for leisure and comfort; but we must have governments, who are in the position to do so, pass the necessary legislation to give the full co-operation in order to bring about universal brotherhood, and until we get universal brotherhood we are definitely not doing the things we should do. So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I will move, seconded by the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Heming):

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor as follows:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful, and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Saskatchewan, in Session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present Session.

Mr. D.H.R. Heming (Moose Jaw City): — Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion of my honourable friend from Wadena (Mr. Dewhurst), I think it is particularly appropriate that a farmer and a labour man should do this, as being indicative of the type of government which is in Saskatchewan today. I am sure that my constituents in Moose Jaw, especially the railroad men, will be pleased and proud, as I am, at my assignment today; because, in Moose Jaw, sir, we have always felt that our economic progress Saskatchewan is bound up with co-operation between farmer and labour.

Before I deal with the motion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating the new Leader of our Opposition at his elevation to this new position. We have all, on this side of the House, recognized his ability in past Sessions, and I am sure that his integrity will permit him to assume his onerous duties to his own credit and to the honour of the party he serves.

Living in a Co-operative Commonwealth province within our Dominion, actively practising many forms of co-operation, it is disturbing to see people all over this world living in fear of insecurity of life and liberty. Increasing armaments, atomic bombs and the threat of another war bear heavily upon the minds of all people. Let us hope that the spirit of co-operation shall extend itself and guide our leaders in high places into channels of action that will permit all to have security of life, liberty and happiness.

There have been handed down to us from the ages certain axioms, precepts and adages to govern our conduct one to another. The paramount admonition is undoubtedly that all that Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." But in order to put that rule into effect, into practical effect, for the economic welfare of our people, it is necessary that we should know some basic truths in our way of life. To those who labour, whether on a farm or in town, the plain words of Abraham Lincoln, spoken some 90 years ago, apply very aptly here at this time. Abraham Lincoln said, almost a century ago:

"Labour is superior to capital and deserves much the higher consideration. Who and what is labour? You are labour who work for a living. You till the soil, you mine the coal, you write books, you spin yarns, you invent cunning machines, you sell and serve behind counters and build the dwellings of men all the world over."

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The thought behind these words, Mr. Speaker, is equally applicable today as in those days. But this uncommon commoner had a special directive to give to the people of this continent in relation to the distribution of wealth when he said:

“It so happened in all ages of the world, that some have laboured and others, without labour, have enjoyed a large proportion of the fruits. This is wrong, and should not continue.”

Farmer and labour know that, that in our present-day economy, there is discrimination in the distribution of our national income, that some are enjoying a large share of the fruits of labour unwarrantedly. Especially is this realized when we check the purchases of Western Canada these last few years. Western Canada has accounted for about one-third of the total commodity sales of Canada, with Ontario having 40 per cent and Quebec 25 per cent. Our Western provinces have purchased 60 per cent of the Canadian farm equipment manufactured in our country; they are second in the purchase of radio and electrical equipment; they buy 20 per cent of the auto products, and 30 per cent of the building materials made in Canada.

While farmers of Canada and Saskatchewan have been experiencing diminishing returns for their labour, while labour generally has been subject to a gradual increase in unemployment, it is a sad comparison insofar as our Canadian economy is concerned when we see that, while farmer and labour are suffering economic vicissitudes, there are some large Canadian companies who are making larger and larger profits. The first nine months in 1954, in comparison with the similar period in 1953, show an increase in profits of 27 major Canadian companies of 5.3 per cent. A similar report emanating from the U.S.A. shows 660 similar companies showed only an increase of 2 per cent of profits. One striking example within our own Dominion of excessive profit was the steel industry, that material which goes so much, and increasingly so, into our durable goods manufacture. Of this industrial group, one company in 1953 made a profit of \$14.2 millions on a ten-million ton ingot production. Eight similar companies in the United States of America at the same time made a \$6.1 million profit on a 1.7-million ton production. In the steel industry of Canada our labour costs rose 94 per cent; profits to operating companies during that same time rose 337.8 per cent, one company being favoured, during that same period, with a profit of 613.5 per cent.

In the farm implement field, since 1945, productivity has increased 150 per cent, while at the same time there was only an increase of 12 per cent in employees, whose wages in relation to total costs decreased from 42 to 28 per cent. It seems, sir, that Western Canada is being discriminated against by Eastern Canada; that some are getting a larger proportion of the fruits of labour and others are getting a decreasing share. If we are to give men the means to raise the cultural standards and foster the creative aspirations of the human spirit, it is essential that we arrange in some manner to provide for all of fair share of our Canadian income with not some getting more than their share to the detriment of others.

It has been written in one of our good books of the past:

“Give a man of leisure, uncontaminated by cant, illuminated hypocrisy, and he shall some day find out why the grass grows, why birds fly and why man, the animal, cheats his fellow man.”

It has been asserted that the high costs of labour is the cause of increased costs of goods and services. I submit, sir, that this is incorrect. Workers wages of today are a little more than workers wages of 50 years ago. The hourly rate for labour varies but little throughout Canada, averaging about a \$1.15 per hour for a 40- or 44-hour week. Carpenters in Montreal get \$1.80 an hour, in Saskatoon \$1.80 an hour. Electricians in Montreal get \$1.90; in Regina \$2.00 per hour. Plumbers in Montreal get \$2.00 per hour; in Regina \$2.00 per hour. The wages of skilled labour, if he works, varies but little throughout Canada. With our farmers, however, things are somewhat different. I read a report emanating from Winnipeg a few days ago in which a farmer in South Portal sold wheat for \$2.27 a bushel; a man in North Portal sold wheat for \$1.23 a bushel; and a man in Montreal selling the same wheat secured \$1.80 a bushel. It is true that parity prices prevail on the American side, but it is not unreasonable to suggest that the farmers of Saskatchewan and Western Canada should have some type of parity price too, whereby there shall not be the difference in purchasing power as is apparent now. If you pay a doctor or lawyer, a professional or businessman \$2.00 an hour in Montreal and in Winnipeg and in Edmonton and in Calgary, this seems to me to be some balance to that.

The Crow’s Nest Pass rates were put in, as I understand it, to benefit the farmers of the West so that benefit should go to them in another way by securing for them and adequate compensation comparable to the United States of America. We cannot live, sir, in a country so close to the United States and not conform generally to their customs. The economic progress of the West will ever be associated with agricultural production. If the farmers of the West continue to receive diminishing income, then it is apparent that all those who labour shall also feel the discrimination proportionately. It was Daniel Webster who wrote:

“Let us not forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labour of man. When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, of the founders of civilization.”

As a union man and as a co-operator, I was indeed glad to read of a recent resolution passed by the Farmers’ Union of Saskatchewan in these words:

“Whereas the Interprovincial Farm Union Council, the Canadian Congress of Labour, the Trades and Labour Congress have jointly formed a Canadian Farmer-Labour Council in an effort to gain a closer understanding of the problems confronting these two groups, therefore be it resolved that they go on record wholeheartedly endorsing the formation of this newly established co-ordinating body and recommend further that it be used as a medium for joint presentations to government on problems of mutual interest to both farmer and labour.”

I am reminded, sir, of what Abraham Lincoln said in regard to united effort:

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“The strongest bonds of human sympathy outside of family relations should be the uniting of all working people of all nations, tongues and kindreds.”

Organized labour in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, is prepared to co-operate with the farmer for mutual benefit, especially in regard to securing warrantable shares of the national income. Organized labour in Saskatchewan is indebted to this Government, as in a predominantly agricultural province it has an active labour legislation which is second to none within the Dominion of Canada. Our Minimum Wage Act is the best in Canada. Our Hours of Work Act is unequaled in all the provinces. Our Annual Holidays Act is outstanding, and appreciated by all those who participate. Our Trade Union Act, a model act of its type, is the envy of all organized labour throughout the Americas. Our Compensation Act for our men who get injured on the job, is well administered, is the best in Canada, and is well liked. The Industrial Standards Act, the Apprenticeship Act, the One Day of Rest in Seven Act, the Equal Pay Act, and several other minor ones of that type, together with the four Lien Acts and the nine Safety Acts administered by that Department of Labour, indicate the consideration this Government has given to the welfare of the working people of Saskatchewan.

The Department of Labour have recently published a little grey pamphlet outlining concisely the labour legislation over which they have jurisdiction, for which I commend them. I would suggest that any workingman of Saskatchewan, who does not fully realize the legislation which has been made for him, should write to the Department where, I am sure, he will be able to get a copy of this publication. It has been asserted, sir, that since this Government came into power, the organized labourers of Saskatchewan have increased 118.5 per cent, while the rest of Canada only increased 25 per cent. This might be true, but the astounding fact is that around about 150,000 farmers and a little more than 150,000 urban workers, by their vote, deemed it was necessary and warranted.

Labour legislation, however, necessarily involves employment. What does it avail a worker if he has the best legislation protecting him if he has no work? In Canada, generally, and in Saskatchewan particularly, there is developing a serious unemployment situation that warrants the special consideration of all governments. Unemployment insurance does lessen the impact of unemployment, but does not take the place of employment with wages. In Vancouver, welfare agencies report that they have an almost unbearable burden with close to 45,000 people unemployed. In Montreal a similar number, 45,000, are applying as against only 30,000 last year. In Ontario there are 100,000 men unemployed today, or more. In Winnipeg over 15,000 men are looking for a job; Calgary has 5,000; Edmonton 6,000. In Saskatchewan, the last figures I heard recently, there were 17,000 in Saskatchewan seeking employment compared with 11,000 last year and 7,006 in 1952. These figures compare adversely with the United States of America, with Great Britain, with Sweden, with Australia and New Zealand, and other countries. I would particularly like to point out that in New Zealand for the last 10 years there has never at any time been more than 100 men looking for employment, and of those 100 men, most were physically handicapped.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the urge of our manufacturers to manufacture for export; I appreciate the urge of agricultural production in order to provide people who are hungry and other markets of the world; and I

understand the urge, too, to have a large population in Canada. But, since the last war, we have had over one million immigrants enter Canada. Saskatchewan has taken her share of this group. Seeing these figures on unemployment, does it not seem, sir, that there should be some consideration given as to the numbers which are to be admitted here? With our natural birth-rate in Canada of 400,000 births a year, our death-rate of 125,000 a year, with an immigrant rate of 150,000 to 200,000 at year, coupled to a almost stationary civilian labour force of 5.3 millions of people, it does seem that some consideration should be given to see that our native-born are given employment prior to admitting too many immigrants in here to take away jobs from them. I am of the opinion, sir, that the unemployment figures of the United States of America today are there because, this last year, only one-tenth of one per cent of their civilian labour force has been admitted as immigrants to that country, where ours is close to three.

I would like to say a few words on the Jubilee. I came to this country one day before it was made Saskatchewan. I worked for 25 cents an hour for 10 hours a day, six days a week. I remember the ox and horse, the 12-inch plow, the 6-foot binder. I remember the time when you could buy a meal anywhere in Saskatchewan for 25 cents. I remember when coffee was 25 cents a lb.; \$3.00 a bag for flour; \$4.00 a week for room and board, with washing. I remember those days, sir, and I have been glad to see, throughout the years, as we have gone from one stage to another, so much progress that we almost forget the past. I think we have had our past, and I think where we are standing now shows that we have progressed wonderfully. I am convinced that, if we progress in the next 50 years as we have in the past, some day we are going to be in an enviable position.

There are two things, however, that strike me as being predominant at this time in Saskatchewan. One is the uranium development and the other is the development of co-operation. In our uranium fields, as was mentioned by the mover, we have an extraordinary supply of this wonder metal. The Eldorado Mines Limited shortly will be the largest single concentrate producer in the western hemisphere. The Gunnar Mines Limited is spending \$25 million and, this fall, will be producing concentrate also. There are a number of companies (I think 50) in one stage or another in the production of this wonder metal. I was just wondering, since apparently we are going to be a second Belgian Congo in production of uranium shortly, if there could be some way in which the men of the world who have control so that our wonder metal could be used mainly for the benefit of mankind rather than for the devastation of civilization.

In Saskatchewan, today, we have a co-operative movement that, proportionately, is the largest in Canada. From a membership of 107,000 in 1944 we have, today, a membership in our co-operative movement of 600,000 out of a population of 850,000 people, and our business, last year, was close to \$500 million.

The same applies to the Credit Unions. In 1944, we had 30,000 members in the Credit Union with assets of 2.4 million clear, today, we have 70,000 members with over \$20 million assets. This response to co-operation under a co-operative government must indeed be a source of satisfaction to all those who are responsible for this extraordinary growth.

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It is apparent that industrial and business development is playing an increasing role in Saskatchewan's economic life. Our future is indeed bright, and others agree with that. I would like to quote a paragraph from *Western Business* (a publication from Vancouver) which sent a man up here to see what our Jubilee year was going to be like. Here is the paragraph I refer to:

“Given a political climate of reasonable and stable government there is no reason why the future of Saskatchewan, as it lies below the Saskatchewan Government's Airways plane wending its way over the vast territory, cannot be like the radio report of weather ahead — C.A.V.U. — ceiling and vision unlimited.”

There can be no doubt that, if we continue to have men who dare to dream beyond the lean horizon of their days, men who are not too timid to follow the gleam, this province of ours shall come, some day, to where we are the land of wonder and amaze.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to support the motion.

Mr. A.H. McDonald (Leader of the Opposition): — Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to adjourn the debate.

(Debate adjourned)

The Assembly adjourned at 4:30 o'clock p.m.