

Newfoundland

of emphasizing the discrimination in facilities and rates which now exists. All this would have a great psychological and material effect, not only on the maritimes but on the whole country.

When I was speaking last week on the address, I noted that there are difficulties ahead, difficulties which have been obscured, postponed or minimized because of the post-war demands and the European recovery program. Our whole economy is, indeed, very vulnerable. An imaginative plan for the development of Canadian resources, including Newfoundland, in the interests of all parts of Canada and particularly in the interests of the depressed or potentially depressed parts of Canada, should be formulated and begun. As I have said before, I think that is a challenge to this house and an opportunity which the entry of Newfoundland into confederation brings forcibly before us. So far as we in this party are concerned, we are prepared to co-operate in accepting that challenge and trying to do something effective about it.

Is there any other reason, Mr. Speaker, except that of the economic policy of the financial and industrial monopolies which have located in the central Canadian provinces, why the prophecy of Sir Leonard Tilley should so long have remained unfulfilled at least in part? Speaking in this house in 1879 Sir Leonard Tilley said this:

I am not, I think, over-sanguine when I say the day is not far distant when the population in the western country will be greater than in Canada and when the maritime provinces with their coal, iron and water power will be the manufacturing centre for this vast dominion.

Perhaps he was over-optimistic so far as the maritimes and the western part of the country are concerned. But, in large part, the vision should have materialized, because the resources are there.

Those of us who can look back on the war years can remember a discussion before the war expenditures committee of this house when the late member for Vancouver-Burrard, Mr. McGeer, the present member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid), the present member for Victoria (Mr. Mayhew), myself and others urged there should be some decentralization of the steel industry. We urged that if at all possible steel should be produced where the plates were being used, and that the valuable deposits of coal and iron on Vancouver island might form the basis of a Pacific coast steel industry to supply British Columbia shipyards. We were told categorically by the steel controller of that day that no such development would be permitted because the steel industry was already well located; and, when the war was over, expanded production might be an embarrass-

ment to the steel industry as established owing to a falling-off of demand or the import of foreign steel.

While Sir Leonard Tilley may have been too enthusiastic in his vision, yet there are no reasons, other than those I have given, why industry should be centralized or why it should become concentrated more and more, not only in one or two provinces, not only under the control of one or two corporations and individuals, but under the control of industries which have become monopolistic in their character and in their methods. To my mind, at least, the partial fulfilment of this vision of Sir Leonard Tilley lies largely in the hands of the present members of this House of Commons.

Newfoundland will come into confederation with her great resources, many of them unsurveyed and many of them unknown. Not long ago, I read a statement by a Roman Catholic prelate who had spent many years on the island, Monsignor Sears, who spoke of the fine agricultural possibilities in western Newfoundland. Again, the problem of conservation enters because that is where lumber is being cut. If we are going to have agriculture, as we are finding out in many parts of our country, we have to conserve our trees or reforest the slopes when they are denuded.

I am very glad that this resolution gives us an opportunity of thinking not only of the great historic event of the entry of Newfoundland into confederation, but also of her sterling people with their interesting history, people who have fought against great odds in the past and are fighting against them now. They will add much to our Canadian nation. It offers us too the opportunity to think not only of the future of Newfoundland but of the future of the maritime region, and indeed of that of all of Canada, and to impress upon us that we must do our part in the building of a far greater nation than even the fathers of confederation visualized when they planned complete confederation of the scattered colonies over eighty years ago.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, it is not my purpose to take a great deal of time this afternoon, because I feel that the ground has been quite adequately and well covered by the speakers who have already taken part in this debate. I feel, however, that we would be remiss in our duties and responsibilities if at this time we did not say something to indicate that we too, in our great movement across Canada, support the principle of this resolution without any qualification. The social credit movement rejoices that the process of confederation, which started more than eighty-five years