

Newfoundland

square miles of Lake Superior are in Canada. We also have exceptionally high mountains. At the time of Sir Ambrose Shea, the St. Elias group of mountains between Yukon and Alaska, which rises to a great height, were not known to be in Canada. The highest mountain in that range is Mount Logan, with a height of 19,850 feet. Canada has inexhaustible resources. What would Sir Ambrose Shea have seen? He would have seen that the Canada of today is one of the largest national areas in the world. I believe we are exceeded only by Russia, including Siberia, but we are larger than European Russia. Together with Newfoundland's 152,000 square miles, we shall now have approximately 3,750,000 square miles. Including Newfoundland and Labrador, the population of Canada will be very close to thirteen and a half million people.

We have grown to be a very great state both in area and in population. Our cousins to the south have a larger population, but continental United States is more than 750,000 square miles smaller than Canada. Including Alaska it is perhaps 150,000 square miles less. I do not know whether it is there now because the building may have been blown down in the late war, but I often think of the inscription on the money exchange building in London near the famous monument to the great fire. The inscription is: "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof." When God made this part of the world he must have been thinking of the fulness of this country, because, interpreting fulness as material wealth, in many respects we surpass the whole world. For instance, there is nickel; in Canada we have approximately nine-tenths of all the nickel in the world.

Mr. St. Laurent: Asbestos.

Mr. MacNicol: Asbestos is to be found in the eastern townships of Quebec; we have approximately eighty to ninety per cent of all the asbestos in the world. Our country is rich in all minerals. It is only a few years ago that Canada produced over \$200 million worth of gold, and at the same time the production of all minerals in Canada exceeded \$500 million.

In coming into confederation, therefore, Newfoundland is joining one of the great countries of the world, and with the new province we shall make a greater country still. To me it is a solemn occasion when I think that from 1864 to 1949, a period of over eighty years, many efforts have been made to make confederation complete. When this bill passes the house, as it will, confederation will be complete. As the years roll on, those who come after us will refer to that great year when the confederation of Canada was completed as the fathers of confederation visualized it in 1864 and 1867. We in this

[Mr. MacNicol.]

house will be off the scene at that time, but we will be remembered for our humble parts in bringing to pass what the fathers of confederation sought to accomplish.

A short time ago I came across a few lines which seem to suit what is running through my mind at the moment. I will quote them:

For the structure that we raise
Time is with materials filled.
Our todays and yesterdays
Are the blocks with which we build.

The blocks with which this structure has been built are the men who carried on the negotiations for union from 1864 onward, the fathers of confederation of those days, representing Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, and those who carried on the present negotiations. Down the years all these men were labouring to build this fine structure which has finally come to pass. Now we and our brothers in Newfoundland may look forward to the certainty of rising to even greater heights.

Today we add another 1,500 miles to our Atlantic front. A moment ago when the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) was giving the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) some admonitions with respect to his trip to Washington, I thought of something else the Prime Minister might take up when he is in the United States. I hesitate to mention it, and I do not suppose he would have time to do it anyway, but on some future occasion he might consider negotiating with the United States in an endeavour to bring in the pan-handle which cuts five hundred miles off our western coast. That is something for the future. If it should ever come to pass, what a majestic country we would have from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

As a humble Canadian, Mr. Speaker, I am proud and happy that the vision which these great men have had all down the years, and which our present leaders have worked so hard to fulfil, at last has become a reality.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT

EXTENSION OF OPERATION FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to present a bill to amend the Agricultural Products Act to extend the operation of the act for a period of one year.

Mr. Graydon: I take it the minister will want to introduce this resolution with a somewhat comprehensive statement, and I suggest that the appropriate time to do so would be before Mr. Speaker leaves the chair, having