

*The Address—Mr. Lacroix (Montmorency)*

The other day the hon. member for Rose-town-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) uttered these words:

Canada, however, should to-day be willing to join with other democracies in offering an asylum to a fair quota of sufferers, both Jews and Christians, in a broad humanitarian effort to relieve their distress.

Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to answer the hon. member by saying that the finest humanitarian effort that we could accomplish would be to give employment and bread to the 322,000 Canadians who in 1937 applied unsuccessfully to the national employment service for work. Before thinking of providing employment for German, Czech and other victims of persecution, we should seek to provide work for our own Canadians.

It must not be forgotten that more than one-tenth of our manual workers are still unemployed. In the single province of Quebec, from 60,000 to 70,000 sons of farmers are seeking a piece of land to operate. Most of the Europeans that we are asked to admit to this country have not the slightest intention to settle on the land. They will remain in the cities where they will take the place of our own workers, who will be turned out of their jobs. World history shows that victims of political persecution have usually been forced to emigrate with only bare necessities and have had to depend on providence for the rest. Therefore those who think that by opening the door wide to immigration of these refugees we shall be adding to the country's capital, are greatly mistaken. All requests for the admission of political or other refugees should be energetically opposed because of the economic disabilities under which our fellow citizens are labouring.

I had the honour to-day to lay on the table of the house a petition presented by the most powerful national society in Canada, the St. Jean Baptiste Society, bearing 127,364 signatures, protesting against Jewish immigration. Canadians of French and British descent, let us unite against the danger which threatens us in that regard. The present state of our public finances and the commercial and industrial situation forbid our opening our doors to immigrants, especially foreigners who cannot be assimilated into our civilization and traditions, which are the sole guarantee of the unity so necessary to assure a prosperous and happy Canada. I am confident that the government will take this petition into consideration and refuse to amend the immigration regulations in the manner urged by certain classes.

It is not my intention to speak on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, but I thought it advisable to submit to the

[Mr. W. Lacroix.]

consideration of the house the few observations I have just made.

On motion of Mr. Casselman the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Michaud the house adjourned at 10.35 p.m.

## Tuesday, January 31, 1939

The house met at three o'clock.

### MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS

#### APPROVAL OF GUARANTEE BY ONTARIO OF LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. PAUL MARTIN (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) whether or not the province of Ontario has signified its willingness to approve or guarantee loans to be made by the federal government to municipalities, pursuant to the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act.

Hon. CHARLES A. DUNNING (Minister of Finance): No.

### RIGHT HON. R. B. BENNETT

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR REFERENCES TO RETIREMENT FROM LEADERSHIP OF PARTY AND MEMBERSHIP IN HOUSE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) a question arising out of the first order of yesterday's proceedings having to do with the resignation of the member for West Calgary, the late leader of the Conservative party, Right Hon. R. B. Bennett. A short reference was made to it about June 30 of last year, but it was expected that the right hon. gentleman would be back here this session. I should like to know if the government would consider setting aside a little time some day this week so that hon. members may have an opportunity to pay tribute to the right hon. gentleman who was leader of the party to which I belong. In view of his lengthy services in and out of the house I think it only fitting that such procedure should be taken and that he be thanked for his services. I should not like to have it said that a prophet is not without honour save in his own country.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid