

The Address—Mr. Hanna

During the latter part of 1956 this country experienced a definite upswing in immigration. With the tremendous growth of our national economy, Canada can use a great many more people. It is encouraging to hear of so many people planning to come here from the British Isles. I for one feel sure that they will not be disappointed with what Canada has to offer them.

This parliament and the people of Canada have demonstrated beyond any shadow of doubt their welcome for the unfortunate refugees from tyranny in Hungary. I am sure these people will quickly find remunerative positions here within the framework of our national economy. While we rejoice in their coming here, I am sure we all deeply regret the conditions which have caused them to flee for their lives from their native land.

In this connection I feel I should not overlook a word of commendation and praise for the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Pickersgill) who acted so swiftly to give his personal attention to the movement of Hungarian refugees to Canada. I have met no one who is not filled with admiration for his decision to go to Austria to make sure that everything humanly possible was being done by his department for the relief of distress and suffering.

I am sure that everyone here, Mr. Speaker, regrets as much as I do the unfortunate industrial dispute which has led to the stoppage of work on the whole Canadian Pacific railway system. This stoppage is having very serious implications for the whole nation. In the interests of Canada I hope that the parties to the dispute will soon agree to come together to effect a settlement. The present situation is hurting many innocent people and it will have to be settled some time. In the name of reason I hope we can have a settlement now before any more damage is done. I am sure that the good offices of the federal Department of Labour are always available to the parties concerned.

Those responsible for municipal government in our country will, I am sure, be most happy that their representations for the payment of taxes by the federal government on federal property have not gone unheeded. This will assist them materially to carry out the numerous obligations which our orderly development as a nation is placing upon their shoulders. This is also a matter which I and other government supporters in the house have raised from time to time and I cannot help noting that it is good to see that attention is being given to these matters, for it belies the contention of some uninformed individuals to the effect that the views of backbenchers on issues of the day are usually of no avail.

[Mr. Hanna.]

As representatives of the people of Canada, we are thankful for what the contents of the speech from the throne will mean to our country.

Seconded by the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Robichaud) I have the honour to move:

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, C.H., Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both houses of parliament.

(Translation):

Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, when I was asked by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) whether I would accept to second the address in reply to the speech from the throne, I was deeply moved by the invitation, and I accepted it in all humility. I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the Prime Minister and to the members of his cabinet for this honour which I accept not only in my personal name but above all in the name of the electors of my constituency of Gloucester and more particularly in the name of the racial group which I have the privilege of representing in this house.

I also wish to join with my colleague, the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Hanna), in expressing to you, Mr. Speaker, as well as to every member of this house, my best wishes for a good, happy, prosperous and holy new year.

(Text):

Mr. Speaker, I want to be the first one to extend to my colleague the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Hanna), who had the honour of moving this address, my heartiest congratulations on his splendid presentation. I was deeply moved by his noble gesture in addressing a few remarks in the French language, the other official language of this country. This is another tribute to this Canadian unity which today is prevailing throughout this Canada of ours under the leadership of our present Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent). All members of this house, I am confident, are being impressed by the necessity for Canadians, regardless of our religious beliefs or racial origins, to work closely together, in harmony and mutual understanding, for the welfare of the whole population of our beloved country.

May I also pause for one moment to offer at this time my most sincere and hearty congratulations to the new leader of Her Majesty's official opposition, the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker). His