

I also wish to join those who have preceded me in congratulating the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

In that speech His Excellency the Governor General takes his leave from us and we are deeply moved in reading the following words:

Princess Alice and I will ever recall that in these momentous years it has been our proud privilege to share in your anxieties and rejoicings. Throughout our lives we shall cherish an abiding affection for Canada and her people.

Such words attest the noble character of those who have just left us, and I wish to tell them that the Canadian people will, in turn, hold an undying affection for them.

No one who reads the speech from the throne can fail to notice the emphasis that is put on our international relations and on their effect upon our domestic policies.

In the second paragraph it is stated:

It is only in the light of the world situation that all our problems can be seen in true perspective. The future of our own and of every country depends upon success in the task of world reconstruction, and the establishment of an enduring peace. Many of the measures you will be called upon to consider at the present session will be concerned with this wider aspect of human affairs.

A little further on, we find the following statement:

It is the policy of my ministers to see that the utmost support is given by Canada to the united nations organization.

While many other paragraphs of the speech from the throne refer to world problems, I do not deem it necessary to make further quotations from it in order to assert that primary importance is given to our international relations, and let me add, rightly so.

Without claiming in the least that I am an expert in such matters, but merely because I wish to bring my contribution to the common work, I desire, Mr. Speaker, to make a few remarks on our international relations and at the same time to add a few words about relations as they are today within this country.

Whatever may be thought about the last war, all Canadian citizens must admit that our country has emerged from the conflict with a greater stature. Canada has achieved a tremendous effort in the industrial, military, economic and financial fields. Thousands of her soldiers, sailors and airmen have fought on all theatres of war; the products of her factories as well as those of her farms and forests have spread her name to the farthest corners of the world; the savings of her people have buttressed the allies in the darkest hours of the war, and later hastened the common victory.

[Mr. L. J. Raymond.]

Before 1939, Canada was already recognized as a world power, but the last war has much more clearly brought home to other nations that status of our country. Those nations which, until then had the least knowledge about Canada or underestimated her economic, military and political importance, have taken cognizance of her. Since that time, they understand better and better the potentialities of our young country, which is endowed with an abundance of partly developed natural resources, enjoys modern economy and occupies a strategic position of primary importance.

We have much evidence of that growing recognition of the importance of Canada in the international sphere. At the beginning of the war, four countries only, except the members of the British commonwealth, had diplomatic representation in the capital. Those nations were the United States, France, Belgium and Japan. Since that time, about 18 other countries have deemed it proper to open legations in Ottawa.

In addition, the Vatican, the highest moral authority in the world and the best friend of true democracy, has just given to Canada a testimonial which puts her among the greatest countries of the world by appointing to the Sacred College a second cardinal in the person of His Eminence the archbishop of Toronto. Although some countries whose population is greater than ours have but one cardinal, Canada now has the same number as Poland, Brazil and Argentina. That is undoubtedly a recognition of the spiritual value of Canada among the nations.

Finally, our country participates in the great international conferences, and despite her youth, she commands the attention of older nations through her well-balanced thought and her matured judgment.

Some may be prone to exaggerate with too great complacency the part played by our country in international affairs, while others are given to minimizing its importance. These two extremes should be avoided.

Canada has much to learn in the field of international affairs, but there is a reality that should be squarely faced; it is that our country ranks among the greatest in the world through her economic, if not her political, power. While remembering the fact that she is an American country and is a member of the British commonwealth, she must have a foreign policy of her own, a policy consonant with her legitimate national interests as well as with the interests of the great family of nations.

Mr. Speaker, our foreign policy should not be a source of serious dissension among us,