

The government has wisely stated in that speech that in the matter of amending the British North America Act they intended obtaining the approval of the provinces in the matter of unemployment insurance; in the event of a constitutional amendment being necessary—and there are those who doubt its necessity—they proposed doing likewise. The house will be called upon to consider these measures.

Another question which is agitating public opinion at the present time is that of the export to the United States of electric power from the provinces. I am sure that the opportunity will be afforded us during this session carefully to consider this question which deserves the serious attention of the house.

I do not intend, Mr. Speaker, to speak at length. For some months past, not only in the province of Quebec but in all the provinces of Canada, journalists and others have been dwelling on the necessity of safeguarding Canadian unity. As I stated some moments ago, Canadian unity can be obtained only by respecting the constitution which governs us. To my mind, the confederation act should be treated with great prudence. Our constitution, as we know, was the result of a compromise and the fathers of confederation intended that it be not interfered with for many years. Not very long ago the question of whether the Canadian confederation offered prospects of enduring was still discussed. I think that after seventy years it is possible to answer that question affirmatively. But, as I said a moment ago, let us not lay hands on the British North America Act without the most careful consideration. It is particularly necessary to take account of the powers assigned to the central government and to the provinces.

The honour of proposing the address in reply to the speech from the throne I owe to a county that, ever since confederation, has remained faithful to Canadian Liberalism. Immediately after the victory the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) very kindly asked me to propose this address. It is an honour which I owe to the electors of Lotbinière and for which I am grateful to them. At the same time I offer my thanks to the right hon. the Prime Minister who particularly wished, I believe, to show his appreciation of the unswerving fidelity of the voters of Lotbinière to the principles and ideas which he has upheld in this chamber and elsewhere with such brilliance and success.

[Mr. Francoeur.]

Someone has said:

Nations are not, any more than individuals, the result of spontaneous generation; they are the outcome of a long succession of efforts, sacrifices and devotion.

Every Canadian should ponder these words and be governed by them. He should strive by constant effort and sacrifice, by untiring devotion, to preserve the heritage of our political liberty, of our institutions and of our laws. It is in Canadian Liberalism, to which their attachment never ceases to grow, in their broadness of outlook, their love of freedom, their tolerance, their respect for all opinions and all rights that our people will find the ideals which uplift and strengthen their soul and sustain them in their struggle towards the realization of their destiny.

The men who uphold Canadian Liberalism to-day are the worthy successors of those who, in the ranks of their party, have no other aim than the greatness of their country. They have just received a new and striking expression of confidence which this house will surely ratify.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to propose:

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, to offer the humble thanks of this house to His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both houses of parliament; namely,—

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Baron Tweedsmuir of Elsfield, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour, Governor General and Commander in Chief of the Dominion of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, His 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.

Mr. R. M. WARREN (Renfrew North): Mr. Speaker, in rising to second the motion for an address in reply to the speech from the throne, may I first be permitted to thank the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) on behalf of the citizens of North Renfrew for the honour conferred upon us. There is no doubt that in conferring this honour he had in mind the paying of a tribute to the memory of an old and staunch friend, the late Doctor Matthew McKay. Doctor McKay was an unusual character. In his profession he served the poor just as readily and willingly as those who were able to pay. He always took an intense interest in public affairs. I suppose there had not been an election held in