

*The Address—Mr. Drew*

has had the privilege as a visitor of seeing extensive parts of that great northland on different occasions, I share the optimism which he has expressed about its future. I think it is a good and healthy thing to place before the young people of this country, through reports emanating from this house, some idea of the immense and untapped resources that still lie across the north of Canada.

Many people still have the idea that up above the comparatively narrow southern belt, which is more closely populated and which stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific, there is nothing but great wastes, with little opportunity for population in the years ahead. Population goes to those places where work can be had, and work is going to be found for scores of thousands in this area where Providence has placed such immense resources for our use.

I simply wish to express my good wishes to the mover and seconder and to say that I believe they performed their task in a manner acceptable to all hon. members. In the very nature of things there were perhaps one or two remarks about which we may not be prepared to go the whole way, but I would have been a little surprised if they had been less enthusiastic about those with whom they are associated in their own activities.

I feel sure that every member of this house will join in the satisfaction expressed in the speech from the throne regarding the king's steady recovery, and the warmth of our welcome to his daughter and her husband. During the past week there has been convincing evidence of that deep and abiding affection with which the members of our royal family are regarded in their individual capacity and, more important still, as worthy representatives of that continuing monarchy, which symbolizes the freedom, tradition, unity and purpose of that great world fellowship which expresses its loyalty to one crown.

I am sure that with the facilities which science has now made available to all of us the king and queen have been greatly heartened by what they have heard of the affectionate and unstinted welcome which has been extended everywhere to Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. To all of us who regard our democratic monarchy as an institution of profound and continuing importance in these uncertain days, not only to us but to the peace and stability of the whole free world, there has been a great measure of comfort and confidence in the spontaneous and unreserved expression of loyalty to our future queen.

On this subject I doubt if there is any measure of disagreement among the members of this house. On a number of other subjects mentioned in the speech from the throne there will also be general agreement. There is of course nothing really new in what it says. It is merely a government agenda of remaining business for 1951, which under our parliamentary procedure the governor general has been called upon to read.

The fact is that we should not be discussing at this time any of these subjects in relation to a new speech from the throne. We should be continuing the session which was adjourned on June 30, and for reasons which are more compelling than those we had before us at the time I expressed that opinion in June when the plans for a new session were announced.

At the time it was indicated that there would be a second full session this year. I am sure it was generally believed that there would be a second budget introduced to provide the means by which a universal old age pension at the age of 70 would be placed upon a contributory basis. I can think of no other reason which would justify the calling of a second session instead of finishing up the business of the house in resumed meetings of the same session which had been adjourned. The introduction of a second budget would at least have provided the opportunity to remove some of those taxes which have proved to be unnecessary, and to deal with the heavy and improper over-taxation which is now taking place.

This is the third successive year in which we have had a second session. A second session does not merely call for the payment of additional indemnities to the members. It calls for very large payments for the maintenance of those facilities that are required and of services that are needed for the continuance of parliament during the time it sits. In 1949 a fall session became necessary after the business of the house had been abruptly terminated at a time when the government decided, and decided correctly, that it was a good time for them to call an election, no matter how much public money was wasted by failing to complete the session which was already far advanced in its business. Nevertheless, under our parliamentary procedure, following that election a fall session did become necessary.

In the opinion of the government a special session became necessary in the late summer of last year. The regular session had progressed in the usual way. Because of its unfortunate handling of the threatened railway strike, a situation had arisen which the government decided could only be dealt with