

eral's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Hon. ARCHIBALD B. McCOIG rose to move that an 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. He said:

In rising to move that a vote of thanks be sent to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I want in the first place to express my thanks and appreciation to the honourable leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Dandurand), as well as the thanks of my constituents, for honouring me by asking me to move this motion.

I desire also to extend to the Prime Minister of this country my hearty congratulations that, after expounding his policy throughout the land, he has been elected to the highest honour in the gift of the Canadian people. He is to be congratulated also upon having selected for his advisers and colleagues such able and outstanding statesmen as surround him, to assist in carrying on the affairs of our country.

I desire also to extend my congratulations to the honourable gentleman who has been selected to preside as Speaker over this Chamber. We were all delighted when we heard the announcement made. Nor must I fail to express our gratitude as members of this House in having with us such outstanding parliamentarian as the honourable gentleman who leads the Government forces and the honourable gentleman who leads the Opposition. We are fortunate in having men of such outstanding ability and reputation not only as citizens, but also as statesmen, and we hope that Providence will spare them for many years to give their splendid services to our country and the state.

In the Speech from the Throne reference was made by His Excellency to a number of questions. He referred in the first place to the condition of unrest and to the assistance which would be given to solving the great labour problems. I believe that I am voicing the sentiments of honourable members of this House when I say we are fortunate at this particular time in having as Minister of Labour an outstanding man who is in touch and is familiar with all the great labour problems which will come before Parliament. It is also fortunate and gratifying that we have in this Cham-

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ber the ex-Minister of Labour (Hon. Mr. Robertson), who is also conversant with the great labour questions, and whose advice and assistance will help us in grappling with such of those questions as will come before this House.

The Speech from the Throne mentioned that tariff changes were to be made at this Session. May I personally express the hope that whatever changes are made in the tariff will be such as will be in the best interests of the plain people of this country and will tend to reduce the cost of living, thus helping that class in which we are all so much interested.

The matter of arranging for conferences with the railway heads for the purpose of securing a reduction in freight rates on the basic commodities is another proposal which will, I know, meet with general approval; and when it comes to the question of the co-ordination at an early date of the government-owned railway systems, I feel that we are fortunate in having as Minister of Railways a man who is recognized as one of the outstanding business men of this country. He has a great problem to grapple with, but we as Canadians do not feel that it is his problem alone. He must do his part, but it is our task to assist in the endeavour to put our Canadian railway system on a paying basis in order that it may be of the greatest possible assistance to the Canadian people. I believe, honorable gentlemen, if we as members of this Chamber and as citizens of Canada, give to the Minister of Railways all the encouragement possible and patronize the railway system of Canada, we may look forward to the time when the railway system will not be in the condition in which it unfortunately is at the present time, but will be considered as an asset to Canada instead of a liability.

In the Speech from the Throne reference was made to a renewal of efforts to attract settlers to the undeveloped lands, and to the need for negotiations looking to association with other countries, looking to trade expansion; the co-ordination of the country's defences, and to the requirements of our returned soldiers. Honourable gentlemen, neither this Chamber nor the House of Commons has as many members who are conversant with the great problems concerning our returned soldiers as I would like to see, but I know that those we have with us, and other honourable gentlemen, will do everything they can to assist in solving