

of Commons at the opening of this Parliament.

I wish to congratulate the hon. member on the splendid address to which we have just listened. He has shown himself equal to the task imposed on him both by the importance of the questions with which he had to deal and the solemnity of the occasion on which he addressed the House.

I must, therefore, Mr. Speaker, ask your indulgence and that of the hon. members for my audacity in rising in my turn to speak before this awesome assembly, having as an audience the men in Canada who are best gifted with eloquence and its most distinguished citizens. Mr. Speaker, I cannot enter into an explanation of the reasons for my approval of the sentiments expressed in the speech from the Throne without first of all referring to the heavy toll taken by the grim reaper from our midst since last session. Naturally I recall the memory of the late Postmaster General, the hon. Thomas Chase Casgrain. Alas, who could have foreseen when we parted last spring that such a polished gentleman, a politician of great renown, a famous lawyer, a truly patriotic Canadian, a citizen all devoted to his country and the Empire, would depart so soon, stricken down suddenly in his full vigour and the full maturity of his intellect. Let us bow reverently to the decrees of Providence and find in his life an encouragement ever to tread the path of honour and cultivate a love for all good and noble causes.

Mr. Speaker, the Reaper has snatched other victims from our ranks. The hon. member for Brome (Mr. Baker) is not in his seat. He has fallen on the field of honour, felled by his country's enemies. I miss also the faces of our distinguished colleagues, the member for London (Mr. Gray) and the member for Stanstead (Mr. Lovell). These also has death mowed down. For the memory of each of our lamented friends let us give a kind thought, while we also offer to their disconsolate relatives our most heartfelt sympathies.

Mr. Speaker, after mourning over our cherished departed let us turn our thoughts to the living present. I learned with much pleasure that by the unanimous voice of your colleagues you had been appointed to the first Commoner of the land. The distinction is of the highest, but it is well deserved indeed. Your parliamentary record, your gentlemanly bearing, the high standard of your life, your profound knowledge of constitutional law, of which we have had fre-

quent instances during your career as a member of this House and as deputy Speaker, left no alternative to your fellow-members but to appoint you to the presidential chair. Allow me to congratulate you most heartily and to offer my very best wishes that success may crown your tenure. I am convinced that by your impartial control of debates, your term of office will not only prove honourable but also useful to this House and to the country at large.

Congratulations and wishes are also due your hon. predecessor, the new Minister of Inland Revenue, the ex-member for Dorchester (Mr. Sevigny); but his duties keep him at present out of the House. I look forward to another occasion to express to him my congratulations and wish to him, a brilliant career in the Government, a career replete with honour to himself and fruitful of good results for his country and particularly for the province of Quebec of which he becomes officially a representative in the Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught, left Canada after his governorship had expired with the regard and regrets of the whole Canadian people. He won the admiration of all by remaining a truly constitutional representative of the Crown, a statesman imbued with the true spirit of royalty and fully comprehending the ideals of the Canadian subjects of His Majesty. And all regret his departure, because during his stay in this country, he won not only our respect, but also our affection and our devotion, which take their source in our steadfast loyalty to the great Empire, which he represented in our midst.

True we have lost an illustrious Governor, but it has been our good fortune to see vice-royalty entrusted to a noble lord, who will not hesitate to follow in the footsteps of his distinguished predecessor. His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire has already won the confidence of the people of this country. I feel convinced that under his wise and enlightened administration, Canada will continue its onward march towards its glorious destiny.

Mr. Speaker, the Address delivered by His Excellency gives some indication of the Government's policy. According to our political constitution, His Excellency's advisers are responsible for every one of his official pronouncements. The speech is therefore expressive of the policy of the Government of which the right hon. Sir R. L. Borden is the head.