

The Address—Mr. Morissette

my part, I can say that his influence will continue to be felt through those who will have benefited from the examples of industry, loyalty and foresight which he set for our country.

But, Mr. Speaker, hardly had we recovered from the sorrow of that great loss when death deprived our province of another premier, the Hon. Paul Sauve, who passed away in his prime, at the outset of a most promising career. The designs of Providence are unfathomable, that is the only answer that I and thousands of people from Quebec could find to this tragic event. The man has passed on, but his work remains and it constitutes an imposing sum of wise measures, good decisions and positive action, which set a new landmark and the resurgence of a political system already credited with many achievements.

We had to accept this new blow which, fortunately, was softened by the accession to power of a man formed in the tradition of his predecessors and who, I am sure, will follow in their footsteps and carry on their work. That is what makes us look to the future with confidence, indeed with assurance. We are justified in this attitude by unmistakable signs of our country's march towards economic prosperity. And that will be the subject of my remarks, after I have paid tribute to you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulated you on the admirable and wise manner in which you preside over our discussions. You will surely be assisted in this task by the wisdom, shrewdness and distinction of the new deputy speaker whom the Hon. Prime Minister has just appointed. With all my colleagues, I rejoice at the honour being bestowed upon the member for Quebec South (Mr. Flynn) an honour which redounds on the city and which the members of the province of Quebec deeply appreciate. Blood will tell, and we know that this outstanding man who, in addition, is a grandson of one of the premiers of our province, will preserve for his name the prestige it has had in the past.

As for the hon. member for Longueuil, he possibly feels some regret at leaving the post he has so ably filled during the last two sessions. We like to think that he will gradually become reconciled to the change, as he comes to appreciate the honour of sitting in the cabinet.

Personally, we are happy over his accession to the cabinet. We feel sure that he

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will co-operate all the better with his colleague from Toronto-Rosedale in the interest of the whole nation. It is, therefore, with deep joy that we offer our two new ministers, whom we associate in our esteem and affection, our most cordial congratulations.

Just as sincerely, we congratulate all the hon. members who, for various reasons, were appointed to the exacting position of parliamentary secretary. We will soon be able to see them at work. The qualities which called them to the Prime Minister's attention will undoubtedly make them excellent auxiliaries.

Noblesse oblige. Those colleagues, more than the rest of us who are devoid of either title or glory, will have to set a good example to the new members who enter this house.

I should like to take this occasion to offer my most sincere congratulations to the hon. member for Russell (Mr. Tardif) and the hon. member for Hastings-Frontenac (Mr. Webb).

Now, Mr. Speaker,—and this will be the subject of my speech,—I want to make a brief survey of the economic situation in Canada and to point out the beneficial effects of the budgetary and fiscal policies of the present government. I will also have occasion to tell how much I admire the wisdom of the government's economic and fiscal policies.

The Liberals had predicted that the election of a Conservative government would be followed by a depression. Actually, the position is far different. Having come to power under extremely difficult circumstances, and being confronted with a disturbing economic situation, the Conservative government had the courage and the ability to adopt the financial and budgetary measures required in such circumstances. We must keep in mind that the Liberals themselves had failed in their task at the beginning of 1957 and, inspired solely by electoral considerations, they had not been frank enough to tell the people of this country that Canada's economy had already begun to weaken dangerously. The Conservatives were elected in 1957 after committing themselves to reduce taxes and to improve social security measures. Those promises, in 1957 were not made merely to attract votes, but because they were required by our economic situation. The Liberals claimed that those Conservative promises could not be carried out. The Conservatives have fulfilled them all.

An hon. Member: You are not in Quebec to be making such a statement.