

The Address—Mr. Meunier

On the Saturday night I attended a meeting with the Deputy Speaker, who made an excellent speech. Afterwards my wife and I talked to various people and they were all tickled to death with the way things were going and could not understand why anybody would gripe, complain and talk about doom and gloom.

In our local paper in July, 1960, there was a story which reads as follows:

'Gloom aggravates recession' says head Canadian collieries.

Incidentally, the colliery near my constituency at Port Alberni is starting a large pulp mill. The story continues:

A company president warned Thursday that gloom aggravates recession.

Norman R. Whittal, president of Canadian Collieries Ltd., said at the company's fiftieth annual meeting:

"The public is wont to accept the gloomy forebodings of their leaders and this gloom, spreading throughout the country, in itself aggravates a recession such as we have experienced over the last few months."

That was in July, 1960, and that is a fact. It is disgraceful to have members of the House of Commons attempting to downgrade Canada and attempting to make Canadians believe there is a decline in Canada's prestige throughout the world. This is not well received by Canadians and is an unwarranted attack on Canada's high standing among the nations of the world. It is an attack made for political reasons.

In October, 1960, I was a delegate to the interparliamentary union at its meeting in Tokyo, and the Canadian delegation received a wonderful reception from delegates representing all the democratic countries of the world. We discovered for ourselves that Canada's reputation and prestige is highly respected by all. During my time there I had some interesting experiences which gave me an idea what they think of Canada. At one reception, where we all wore our badges with the inscription "Canada" one page boy came up to me and said "Me Broda". He knew that we came from Canada; he knew the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Montreal Canadiens. He himself was a goal tender and all he could say was "Me Broda". Evidently he knew some of the Canadian players.

Later the president of the ice skating association of Japan called at my hotel and talked with me for three quarters of an hour. Certainly there was nothing there that would lead anyone to think that our country was not highly thought of. I have a letter from a Mrs. Takae Sugita, dated November 17, 1961, in which she says:

Dear Mr. Matthews: Last year we had the pleasure of greeting the M.P.'s from Canada and this year we were honoured by the visits of the Prime

Minister, Mr. and Mrs. Diefenbaker to Japan. It was really a memorable occasion. The Japan-Canada Society gave a luncheon in their honour at the Imperial hotel and my husband and I also attended it. There was quite a good turnout of the Niseis in Tokyo. Everybody thought that Mrs. Diefenbaker was so charming and friendly. The Japanese say that if a thing happens twice there will be a third. I wonder what is in store for us next year.

From that one can see how welcome was the visit of the Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker.

I do not know how much time I have left but I should like to say that people talking gloom and doom remind me of a story I once heard about Pat, who was lying sick upstairs in the firehall. The firefighters sent Mike to cheer him up. Mike climbed up the winding staircase to the bedroom where Pat was lying on the bed. He couldn't help saying "You look pretty pale Pat, I don't know whether you will make it or not. Terry Grady had the same disease as yourself. He looked all right but suddenly he died. You will be all right and I don't want you to worry. However, Gil Finnegan of the iron workers union, a very strong man who never had a day's sickness in his life, he contracted the same disease. He was looking pretty good too but suddenly he handed in his lunch bucket and departed this land. Don't worry Pat, I don't want to worry you. I'm sure you'll be all right." Mike then turned and started down the winding stairs but just as he got to the top of them he turned round and said to Pat "There's one thing bothering me Pat. How do they get a body down these winding stairs." That is the kind of comfort some people give, and it does not help our country when it needs encouragement.

Canada has prospered since the days of depression. There has been a depression in Canada and the United States but we are now well out of it. The picture today is bright and the prospects for the future are colossal. The duty of all governments is to make sure that the sick, elderly and underprivileged are properly cared for, and this the present government is pledged to do and is doing. There is a glorious future for all young Canadians. Those who have been misinformed should take a new look at things, listen to the right people, and they would then discover the facts and their faith would be restored.

(Translation):

Mr. Adrien Meunier (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I should like first of all to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne (Messrs. Bourdages and Browne, Vancouver-Kingsway), on the manner in which they performed their task.