

The Address—Mr. Poulin

referred to what is done in another country, but I understand that the United States, our neighbour, is marching rapidly toward state medicine. We might be well advised to wait until we have seen what happens there. The neighbouring country, immensely rich, perhaps feels the need of going into costly experiences, but as regards Canada, which is far from being as wealthy, would it not be preferable to wait and let others indulge in that luxury, in order to profit by their experience.

I feel that the increase of family allowances would be far more advantageous; it would enable us to avoid the errors which may be made in organizing state medicine.

However it may be, I make bold to say this: we shall have to be most prudent if some day strong pressure develops and that system of state medicine is organized in this country. We shall have to proceed with the utmost prudence, as I said, so that state medicine may not destroy plain medicine in this country.

Mr. Speaker, there is in the province of Quebec a great and broad riding called Beauce. I have no illusions! I know that all the ridings in this country are great and of wide extent. I know that each and every member of this house thinks—which is quite all right—that his riding is the greatest and the largest. And it is because we all consider our electoral districts so great and wide and interesting that each one of us can earnestly devote his activities to the welfare of his riding and its population. Nevertheless, Beauce is a great and broad county. Its people, who are intelligent, industrious, thrifty and proud and who have large families, have asked me to represent them here and it is among these people and nowhere else, believe me, that I got the ideas I have endeavoured to convey to this house tonight.

This same population, in the near future, will be asking the government, through my humble self, for no special privileges but for benefits it normally considers itself entitled to.

I trust the government will not be cool towards our good population for not having elected a member of the Liberal party.

Incidentally, may I congratulate the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) and the leaders of the other parties who have been re-elected. The fact that these hon. members have been re-elected, in spite of the great Liberal sweep, is sufficient proof to me that they are men of great worth, men who are ready to serve not only their constituents but the country at large.

As for the sweep, I do not hesitate to say it was launched and sustained mostly by the personality of the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent).

[Mr. Poulin.]

During the recent electoral campaign, the Prime Minister honoured Beauce by paying us a visit. He was even so kind as to spend with us the last twenty-four hours of the campaign. He was extremely courteous and gracious. In return, the people of Beauce gave him a royal welcome. They received him like a prince. That was only normal and to be expected. I am indeed pleased to add that I represent that fine constituency where the distinguished wife of our Prime Minister was born.

Those are some of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, why the people of Beauce were so happy to welcome that great Canadian and his gracious lady, who has proven to be such a worthy wife and mother. That is why we outdid ourselves.

The Prime Minister did not go so far as to ask the electors to vote for me; on the contrary, however, I can now assure him that if the majority of the people of Beauce did not support his official candidate, it was not because they were opposed to the Prime Minister, of whom they are very fond, but rather because they preferred your humble servant.

I can assure you that among those who supported me in the recent election a few thousand must have done violence to their feelings when they voted for a candidate who was *persona non grata*.

I do hope, Mr. Speaker, that for having been so outspoken, so loyal and so plucky, the good people of Beauce can count on generous treatment from the government.

Mr. Henri Courtemanche (Labelle): May I be permitted, Mr. Speaker, to follow the example of the hon. Leader of the Opposition in congratulating the hon. Prime Minister on his electoral victory. I wonder whether the result would have been the same had it not been for his personal prestige in the province of Quebec. As a group, the Liberal party had much to be forgiven, and its recent victory must not be considered as an incentive to carry on its erring policy but rather to correct its political inspirations.

Not being sentimental, my constituency was logical and fair in voting for Mr. Drew and the party which he leads with such distinction and sincerity.

I have the honour of representing a large constituency which is mainly agricultural. The constituency of Labelle, like so many others, did not secure from this government all it was entitled to expect. I am not blaming anyone but my presence in this house proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that the people in that section of Quebec wanted to protest most emphatically against