

duty it would resign, go to the people and allow them to speak. The Canadian people as a whole should be given an opportunity at a general election to express their view upon policies which up to the present they have been able to do only in part in by-elections.

Let me now turn to the speech His Excellency the Governor General delivered from the throne to this house at the opening of the session. As is known, the speech almost in its entirety is prepared by the government, and His Excellency in delivering it is expressing the government's views. However there is one paragraph which refers directly to His Excellency and for which no doubt His Excellency is immediately responsible. It seems to me it appears very properly in the address. I refer to the paragraph in which it is stated that during the course of his stay in Canada His Excellency as the representative of His Majesty has visited all the provinces. I am sure the references His Excellency has made to the friendliness and great courage which he observed, and to the capacity of the people to overcome difficulties with which they are confronted will be very much appreciated by the people in the different parts of Canada visited, just as I am sure His Excellency's visits themselves to different parts of Canada have been very much appreciated.

There are some paragraphs, Mr. Speaker, that in language more or less the same appear in every speech from the throne. We are accustomed to find a paragraph, for instance, which tells us that the public accounts will be submitted, and another paragraph which tells us that the estimates will be submitted, and that it will be seen that due economy has been exercised in their preparation. There is one other paragraph which has crept into every speech from the throne since the present administration has come into office, and which has now become as commonplace as the two to which I have referred, and that is the paragraph which tells us that conditions are improving and that prosperity is just around the corner. If that paragraph did not appear so often, if it had not been in every speech from the throne since this administration came into office, possibly the paragraph which appears in the speech from the throne this year might carry more in the way of conviction with those to whom it is addressed. When, however, one reads what is said in this speech and compares it with what was said in previous speeches, the parallel is so striking that one will have difficulty in believing that the ministry actually appreciated in the past or appreciate

at present the true position of the country when they advised His Excellency to use the following language:

You are summoned for the dispatch of public business at a time when there are sound reasons for believing that the world is gradually returning to economic stability. I congratulate you that such improved world conditions are reflected in Canada by expanding trade, improving revenues, increasing employment, and a more confident outlook upon the future. Canada occupies a leading position amongst those countries where the evidence of a return to permanent prosperity is most convincing.

I wish, Mr. Speaker, that we could obtain from the ministry the sound reasons it has for believing that the world is gradually returning to economic stability. I would be the last to seek to question a statement of that kind, and I wish with all my heart that it could be supported, but when one looks at conditions as they are to-day, in the orient, as was described this very day in the press, with respect to the relations of Russia to Japan, when one looks at Germany and at conditions as they are in some of the other countries in Europe at the present time, when one looks at the unrest that there is in other parts of the world, and above all when one sees what is resulting from the economic nationalism of different countries, I fail to discover where there is evidence for believing that there is anything in the nature of a gradual return to economic stability. However, that is a matter of conjecture, and I do no more than simply say that it strikes me as an unnecessary statement in the speech having regard to conditions as we all know them to be throughout the world.

But the next paragraph is one of special significance so far as Canada is concerned. In previous speeches His Excellency has evidently been permitted simply to state the fact that conditions are improving, but in the present speech he has evidently been told to go somewhat further and actually to congratulate us upon the improvement.

For comparison with other years, let me give the house the statement as it appeared at the opening of the second session of parliament. These were the words used in March, 1931:

A marked improvement in the domestic situation. . . . The firm belief of my government that this country is soon to enter upon a new era of prosperity.

At the opening of the third session of this parliament in February, 1932, there was the assertion that

"conditions are gradually improving."