

splendid efforts they have so far accomplished with a view to obtaining justice from the C.N.R. I thank the Board of Transport Commissioners for having, last fall, sent its vice-chairman, Mr. Sylvestre, to our district in order to hear our claims, and I hope the steps we have taken will not be of no avail.

Once again, I wish the Government may give to this problem the attention it deserves and that they will work out a solution equitable to all concerned.

In closing, I wish to pay a last tribute to my distinguished predecessor in this house, Mr. J. E. A. Dubuc, who died in October last. Mr. Dubuc, who sat in the house for twenty years, was one of the ablest business men of his generation. Through his death, the county of Chicoutimi has lost one of those who have contributed most in bringing lustre on the name of Saguenay in financial and industrial circles; the French-Canadian race loses a son who was a credit to it and Canada, one of her most eminent citizens.

*(Text):*

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, the debate on the address affords an opportunity for private members to bring before the house the redress of grievances. But first there is one matter to which I wish to refer. There were dark days in Britain last fall, when the Big Four were meeting in Paris, and there was the threat of war, with bankruptcy, hunger and all that kind of thing facing the mother country. But there was one thing to cause rejoicing, and that was the happy event of the marriage of Princess Elizabeth. It was of great interest not only to the people of Great Britain but to every dominion in the empire and to every province in Canada. It showed that the heart of the mother country was strong and that she would weather the storm.

That great soldier, patriot and statesman, who is now the Governor General, Viscount Alexander of Tunis, has been received with acclaim all across this country. Not only has he been received with acclaim and great affection by those who served in the forces under him, but he has been acclaimed for what he did for the country and the empire as a whole. He is one of the greatest soldiers of all times. Away back in 1943 I urged upon the government, when our late governor general, the Earl of Athlone, was leaving, that they should follow the practice of the United States after the war between the north and the south when former soldiers became presidents of the republic. I believe that is a good practice.

The speech from the throne offers an opportunity to lay before the house four of the

greatest needs we have in this country, namely, parliamentary, constitutional, cabinet and law reform. I have referred to these matters before. The tax collections in the Toronto district are the highest in the country; yet in the present government we have no cabinet representation from the Toronto district since 1935. We used to have four or five ministers from this largest tax-paying city in the Dominion of Canada. It is one of the largest we have in the overseas dominions, but we have never had a representative in the cabinet since 1935 when the former government was defeated.

Parliamentary reform is one of the most important matters we have at the present time. An effort to reorganize the business of the house has been before the house for a long time. Surely better methods could be adopted to look after it.

Law reform is also one of the most important matters confronting the dominion today. We have made very little progress, but they have made progress in the old country. Why are the jails filled at the present time? We have a new type of magistrate, a remand type of magistrate—unlike Colone! Denison—who wants to wait a week to think things over, to get reports and all that sort of thing. In a bill I introduced last session I urged an amendment of the criminal code, as they have had it for years in England, to provide under the Summary Offenders Act that these people be not put in jail. In the old country they do not put them in jail; they are allowed time to pay their fines. We should have that system here. Last session my bill proposed that the criminal code should be consolidated. That should have been done long ago. It is a relic of forty years ago, long before the first world war. There should be a committee of judges such as the Hon. Mr. Justice Mackay, to go over the act and present a report to a legal committee of the House of Commons. Long ago we should have had what they have in the provinces, namely, a legal committee here to consider legal bills. That would save a lot of time.

Another matter is the hit-and-run driver. The toll of life in fatal accidents in this country is appalling, and parliament is doing nothing at all about it. Children are being left alone in homes at night and are being burned to death. Many of them are living in hovels which are just firetraps. The first duty of the government is to look after the health, wealth, peace, happiness and prosperity of its citizens. Why is something not done to remedy the situation accordingly?