

behind in their plans, including the province of Quebec. The previous Union Nationale Government would not take part in the joint federal-provincial project. As a result of that refusal, the work could not start until 1960, when the present Quebec premier assumed office.

The Speech also mentions the establishment of a contributory system of old age pensions which will enable all Canadians to retire in security and with dignity.

Several other important measures that it would take too long to mention, form part of the Government's program for the present session and are designed to give new impetus to the Canadian economy.

Before closing my remarks, I should like to point out that well before the setting up of the proposed inquiry on biculturalism, the Leader of the Government acknowledged the French fact in Canada. On April 22, His Excellency the Governor General presided at the swearing-in ceremony of ten French-speaking ministers in the federal cabinet, of which seven are from the province of Quebec, one from New Brunswick, one from Ontario, and another from Manitoba. This constitutes a proper acknowledgement not only of Quebec, but also of French-speaking minorities in three other provinces.

Mr. Speaker, for all those reasons, it is an honour for me to move the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

(Text):

Hon. Austin C. Taylor: Honourable senators, in seconding the motion for an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I deem it a great privilege and a distinct honour to be called upon to perform this traditional function of Parliament. I recognize fully my limitations, and I approach this time-honoured task with deep humility. I, therefore, solicit your tolerance and understanding in the performance of this duty. While I regard it as a very great honour to myself, I look upon it more as a recognition of the province of New Brunswick and of her citizens, more particularly of the good people of my own constituency of Westmorland, whom I represent here in the Senate of Canada.

At the outset I wish to join with others who have already expressed regret as to the absence of His Excellency the Governor General on the opening day, due to ill health. I know I express the sentiments of all honourable senators in wishing him a speedy and complete recovery.

Coming as I do from New Brunswick, the picture province of Canada, I trust that I may be forgiven if I outline some of the beauties of that province. Those who have

travelled through my province will endorse the correctness of this statement when I refresh their memories of the beauties of the Saint John River Valley from the Quebec border to the Reversing Falls approaching the harbour of Saint John, the picturesqueness of the valleys of the Kennebecasis, the Petitcodiac, the Miramichi, the Nashwaak, and the Tobique, the Fundy park, and many other beauty spots, more particularly the famous Magnetic Hill and the renowned tidal bore, both within the confines of my own constituency.

Hon. Mr. Farris: Don't leave out Grand Lake.

Hon. Mr. Taylor (Westmorland): Oh, yes; and I could name many more places of beauty.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: In fact, you could name the whole province.

Hon. Mr. Taylor (Westmorland): Yes, indeed. All these beauty spots are unsurpassed in any part of Canada, and it would be difficult to discover their equal anywhere.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Taylor (Westmorland): Among the institutions of learning in New Brunswick there are in my constituency of Westmorland two famous universities that are known throughout this nation as a result of the magnificent contributions made to society by many of their outstanding graduates. I refer to Mount Allison University and St. Joseph's University. But, of course, the most valuable asset of all, not only in my own constituency but in the province as a whole, is the greatness of her people, and to them all I wish to pay a high tribute for their efforts and determination in developing our part of this great nation under very serious and distinct handicaps. The honour that may be extended to me in the performance of this duty I proudly accept in their names. I trust that our present Prime Minister's declaration of equality to all, as evidenced by a number of proposals in the Speech from the Throne, will remove many of the inequalities that have existed for years in our part of the nation.

Honourable senators, I am indeed happy and proud to welcome my leader (Hon. Mr. Macdonald, Brantford) back in the important role as Leader of the Government in this house, a position which he held with such distinction, competence and dignity when I first entered this chamber and throughout his term. I am sure he will perform his arduous duties in the same capable and distinguished manner as he has done in the past.