

Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Robb) if any report has been made to the Government by the Royal Grain Inquiry Commission appointed by the late Government, known in Western Canada as the Hyndman Commission, and if so, whether such report will be made available to the House. I should like also to ask whether the Government has a copy of the evidence taken, and if it is the intention to submit such evidence to the House.

Hon. J. A. ROBB: (Minister of Trade and Commerce) There is a voluminous amount of correspondence in the department, but no definite report. The expense of printing this evidence would be considerable. I see no objection to supplying it to my hon. friend if he so desires, and if the House decides to bear the expense of printing it there will be no objection to that being done.

Mr. MEIGHEN: May I ask the minister if it is the intention of the Government to continue the work of the commission?

Mr. ROBB: Well, the Wheat Board have apparently discontinued their own work. They have run out of supplies.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The Wheat Board?

Mr. ROBB: The Grain Commission.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Consideration of the motion of Mr. McMurray for an Address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, resumed from Monday, March 13.

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Marquette): Mr. Speaker, my first words this afternoon shall be words of congratulation to you, Sir, upon your elevation to the position of First Commoner of the land. The office of Speaker in the greatest deliberative assembly of the nation is one of much responsibility. I think the House has been happy in its choice, Sir, and I have no doubt that hon. members will give you every assistance in the maintenance of that order and decorum which are necessary for the proper conduct of the public business.

It is appropriate also that I join with the right hon. the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) in the words which they have uttered with regard to the appointment of His Excellency Lord Byng to be

[Mr. Meighen.]

Governor General of Canada. A good many of us have pleasant recollections of the late Governor General, the Duke of Devonshire. I have no doubt that the present Governor General will soon gain from the whole of the Canadian people that esteem and respect that he gained so rapidly among the Canadian soldiers when he was their chief at the front.

I wish also—and I feel a particular pride in doing so—to say a word of welcome on the part of my fellow Progressive members here to the new lady member of this House. I think it is particularly fitting, Mr. Speaker, that the first lady member elected to the House of Commons, marking a distinct step in progress, should be elected as a member of the Progressive Party. We have recently given the women of Canada the franchise. I am a thorough believer in that reform; I believe that the women of Canada can make a great contribution to the public life of the country, and I have no doubt that our new member will make a valuable contribution to the work of the House.

I wish also to say a word of felicitation, not only because it is customary but because I think it can be sincerely offered upon the present occasion, to the mover (Mr. McMurray) and to the seconder (Mr. Mercier) of the motion we are considering. It is not a light ordeal for a new member to speak from his place in this House for the first time; I recall my own experience in that connection. But I know I am well within the judgment of the whole House when I say that the hon. member for North Winnipeg discharged his duty yesterday very well indeed. Unfortunately for me I do not speak the graceful language of my hon. friends from Quebec and I was therefore unable to follow in actual text the address given by my hon. friend who seconded the motion. But I am bound to say that of the many admirable speeches that I have listened to in the French language none has impressed me more than the speech I heard from my hon. friend yesterday.

It is proper that I should make some reference to the speeches of my right hon. friend who leads the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) and my hon. friend the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). If the speeches we had yesterday from our hon. friends, Mr. Speaker, are an indication of what we shall have throughout the whole session and this Parliament, I can well believe that we are in for some interesting times. I should like to have seen a little more discussion of the really serious prob-