

The people of Canada, however, have looked at those political changes with some apprehension, but always confident in the destinies of the Liberal party and in the King Administration they look forth to the days of resurrection.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I am able, with, I believe, more than even the usual sincerity, without reservation, insofar as their personalities are concerned, to congratulate the mover and the seconder of this motion. To come into this House for the first time and address his fellow-members is no easy matter for a young member of Parliament. I, of course, was able to follow more closely the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. McMurray) than the hon. member for Westmount-St. Henri (Mr. Mercier) who seconded the motion. With the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for North Winnipeg, I find myself in concurrence to a greater degree than I had expected prior to his rising and, I think I may add, to a greater degree than he expects even now. I am not able to share all his hopes as to what is to be the fruitage to come from this Speech from the Throne. Indeed, I may venture to predict that before the session is over he will find himself a great deal nearer the depths of distrust and despair in which I am now than the high level on which he has commenced. He has, however, acquitted himself creditably to his constituency and creditably to the province which he alone represents on that side of the House.

The hon. member for Westmount-St. Henri has come to this Parliament preceded by a reputation which does him honour. Though I was not able to follow his utterance with that degree of certainty that would enable me to refer to it particularly prior to translation, I am sure he has vindicated his reputation as a public speaker at least in point of clearness of enunciation, in point of natural decisiveness and graciousness of speech. Those of us who have spent many years, many of us the best of our years, in public and parliamentary life, gladly welcome new talent amongst us. There is room in the politics of Canada, there is room in the work of this House, for the best and most promising of our young men, and the welcome that I hope I may be permitted to extend to the mover and the seconder of this Address goes with equal sincerity to all who come among us on all sides of this

assembly; and possibly I may add that it goes as well to many good friends, although my opponents politically, who, after severance from public life, are back with us again.

I add especially a word of welcome to the first lady member of the House of Commons. The last Parliament, by a very large majority, almost by a unanimous decision, conferred the franchise on women, and conferred upon them as well the privilege of candidature for the Commons of Canada. To be the recipient of the first expression of confidence by a constituency is an historic honour, and I know I express the feelings of all, when I put into words the hope that she will vindicate the confidence that the last Parliament has reposed in her sex, do credit to herself and to the constituency that she represents.

This House meets under a new Government and under a new Prime Minister. The Prime Minister who leads this assembly now has come to his high office at an early age. He has had considerable association with public life in a conspicuous way. Notwithstanding the feelings many of us have of opposition, of, indeed, antipathy, to the methods indulged in by himself and his followers, by which their so-called success was achieved, we all, as Canadians, wish him long service in the life of this country. We shall give him fair play in the work of this House; we shall do our part to contribute to the success of this Parliament; and I, for one, wish him personal success. Before I sit down, I shall have something to say in explanation of the words I have uttered as to the character of the campaign that preceded the last contest. I do not do so in any spirit of resentment to the people of this country; I do not do so at all out of any personal regret I may feel at not holding high office still; indeed, I speak in all sincerity when I say that it is well that young and, indeed, sometimes untried figures come to responsibility in our public life. Alternation of party control is good—those of us who know what the burden has been during the past ten years will understand what I mean. I do not think the years ahead will be so strenuous; I hope they will not; but aside from all questions of public policy, it is well that those who are fresher to the task and who perhaps bring new points of view should assume from time to time, the responsibilities of administration.

There has been comment in the speech of the mover of the motion, and there is