

The Address—Mr. Dumas

and meat products; and with this industry on such a stable basis I believe it will continue to grow and to develop.

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act has taken many of the hazards out of mixed farming by providing farmers with technical help, and has shared the expense of providing water supplies. The community pasture program, linked with resettlement, has stabilized the economy of many communities. I urge strongly that the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act be expanded so that no one will be trying to grow wheat on ranch land. Irrigation is the answer, and I sincerely hope that in the near future all Canada will be receiving benefits from this program of irrigation and reclamation. The maritime marshland reclamation project, as well as that in British Columbia, give definite evidence that the government is behind the move of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) in his great undertaking to make most efficient use of those three vital factors in an agricultural economy—people, land and water. I do not believe any department which could be set up to carry out this work could combine as effectively these three vital factors as could the Department of Agriculture.

It is evident from the deliberations of various organizations which have held conferences since the last session of parliament, including the dominion-provincial conference, that that conference as well as the farm organizations feel that the government is doing all within the power of any government to keep our economy, both internal and external, at a high level.

There is evidence that agreement will be reached among the provinces and the federal government on matters affecting constitutional changes. As a nation we are more united than we have ever been in the past. In the light of these accomplishments, and future proposals, and with the knowledge that the Canadian people have confidence in His Majesty's ministers, I take great pleasure in moving the address.

(Translation):

Mr. Armand Dumas (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, it is with deep emotion and a justifiable feeling of apprehension that I rise in this house to discharge the honourable but delicate duty entrusted to me. Needless to say I expected to experience those feelings, which are probably common to all who make their maiden speech in this house. Nevertheless I felt duty bound to accept this mark of confidence and to seize this opportunity of speaking on behalf of my constituents. I am

convinced the house will not deny me its usual forbearance towards beginners.

I am very happy to second the address in reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament on the occasion of the opening of the second session of the twenty-first parliament. I am pleased to do so because the honour bestowed upon me is reflected on the population of the district of Villeneuve, which I represent here. This honour is well deserved by the pioneers of northwestern Quebec, whether they be settlers, farmers, forest workers, prospectors or miners. The land surveyors' guild and the association of forestry engineers, both professional groups to which I belong, also feel honoured. On behalf of all of them, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Prime Minister and the members of his cabinet.

(Text):

My first duty, Mr. Speaker, is to extend to you my salutations and to pay you my respects. Throughout the last session you presided over the debates of this house with great dignity and impartiality, and hon. members are pleased to see you once more in the chair, because they know they can rely on your kind disposition and the manner in which you will exercise your authority.

I should like to add a personal word to the tributes that have been paid to our late colleague, T. L. Church. The confidence which his electors showed in sending him steadily to this house for a quarter of a century is the best evidence there could be of the esteem in which he was held by all. Tommy Church was a model for us all. He was a hard worker; he knew what he wanted, and he wanted what he knew. His memory will remain for ever with us.

The time has now come to congratulate the hon. member for Kindersley (Mr. Larson) upon the brilliant way in which he has moved the address. His substantial exposé brings to our minds the golden and nourishing crops of his province, and the logic of his argument suggests the iridescent symphony of wheat fields undulating in the breeze.

There is now missing from this house a familiar personality whose memory I should like to evoke. Hon. Colin Gibson served brilliantly as Minister of National Revenue, Minister of National Defence for Air Services, Secretary of State, and Minister of Mines and Resources. It was in his last capacity that I had the privilege of knowing him well, when during last fall I accompanied him on a tour of the mining establishments located in my constituency. In his new position as