

move the adoption of the address in reply to the speech from the throne; I am a young Canadian making my first steps in this House of Commons, this honourable house where many eminent and enlightened men have, since confederation, discussed and debated economical, social and political questions which have helped to mould out of Canada a nation true to the longings of our fathers of confederation. Numerous valorous and unforgettable Canadians, of British and French extraction, have come into this house to find means of ensuring a lasting welfare for their generation and our own.

The honour which is bestowed upon me is rather an homage to the veterans whom I represent in this house. Although the war is over many veterans are still returning from overseas and I avail myself of this opportunity for thanking the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the government for honouring the veterans in this house by asking me to speak on their behalf.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, the fact that I have been chosen is also a mark of respect and gratitude to the population of St. Boniface county which I represent here. St. Boniface is not a historical county, from the political viewpoint, but it is representative of the growth of the Canadian west. It was at St. Boniface, at the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, that the first explorers of the Canadian west arrived over a century ago. The first settlers and first missionaries landed on the shores of the Red river, at the very place where St. Boniface is now situated, to establish the first post which was instrumental in the growth of the Canadian west.

Today, St. Boniface is the largest industrial city in Manitoba. It is a cosmopolitan city, where the great races of this country live in harmony and I may add that the city itself is setting an example of good understanding for Canada as a whole.

The population is not very large as yet. However, I would like to say a few words in regard to my city and my constituency. Here, in St. Boniface we have the two largest slaughterhouses and the two largest flour mills in the British empire in addition to a large number of other industries. Not only do those industries serve the rural sections of Manitoba but they serve the whole of western Canada. My constituency comprises two important sections, one rural and the other urban. In several French-Canadian villages our farmers have for a great many years grown wheat to meet Canada's needs as well as those of the whole world.

If the Prime Minister has kindly chosen the humble representative of that constituency to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne it is in recognition of the fine work done by all the citizens of St. Boniface and the place which this city now occupies in the economic and social development of western Canada.

On behalf of the citizens of St. Boniface, I wish to thank the Prime Minister for this unforgettable gesture.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to discuss for a moment a single question, namely, the loan which the Canadian government has just made to the British government to enable them to pull through the post-war transition period and reach that enduring peace so highly desired by all nations of the world.

Several Canadians wonder whether the government has acted wisely in making to England a loan of \$1,250,000,000, when it is considered that the Canadian government has already agreed to loan \$750,000,000 to other allied nations: France, Belgium and Holland who have already received a portion of this sum.

Mr. Speaker, in examining this loan to England, every member of this house must keep in mind two things:

First, from the standpoint of brotherhood. I use this word because inasmuch as Canada is a member of the British commonwealth of nations, it must be admitted that Great Britain deserves our esteem and our admiration. Let us not forget that in 1940 when the Nazi hordes invaded the whole European continent and vanquished France, that great Catholic nation, Great Britain with the assistance of Canadian troops stood firm and almost single-handed fought the enemy, thus enabling the other nations of the commonwealth to arm themselves not for the defence of England but to save the world from a tyranny bent on destroying the principles of Christianity and to guarantee to each and every one liberty, peace and happiness. We must not forget that England, by her fortitude, her courage and her tenacity, by her self-denial and her sacrifices has enabled the Canadian armies to join the armies of the other allied nations not only in pushing back tyranny to the place where it had originated but to force the tyrant responsible for that revolting doctrine to destroy himself with that same sword which he brandished for so many years and with which he intended to destroy the social order and the peace of Christian nations.

In this grave hour, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that any Canadian, who is a member of the House of Commons, will be happy, when the bill dealing with the loan to England is introduced, to give it his approval in order to