

one of the great provinces of this Dominion was simply waiting for its "hour." Well, there was a time some years ago when a certain man and a certain people toasted "The Day" and waited for its coming. I did not think I would ever live to hear a man get up in this House, and say that one of the great provinces of Confederation, if not toasting "The Day" was waiting for the "hour" when it could get its revenge. The hon. gentleman may think himself justified in making that statement. He may feel that the province of Quebec has grievances against the rest of Canada, but if he will look closely into the history of the past he will find that if there has been one province of this Dominion which has shown a disposition to interfere in the purely local matters of other provinces it is, unfortunately, the province from which he comes. That is undoubtedly the truth, and I merely say that because I want to impress the fact on the mind of the hon. gentleman, and of any others who think and feel as he does. I shall not follow that matter any further. I hope, and indeed believe, that the hon. gentleman when he said the province of Quebec was waiting for its hour and would not confer with other provinces until that hour arrived, was not expressing the sentiments of the people of the province from which he comes, and for whom he presumed to speak.

Hon. THOMAS ALEXANDER CRERAR (Marquette): Mr. Speaker, it had not been my intention to speak to this resolution this evening, but as I have some opinions in respect to public matters in Canada that I should like to place before the House at the present time and as I understand a vote is to be taken this evening, I must avail myself of the opportunity that now presents itself.

It is a matter for congratulation that after four years of absence from the regular meeting place of this Parliament we are now assembled in our new home. I wish to express my appreciation of the magnificent building our Parliaments will have for their home in future. I am among those who believe that it is a good thing to have fine public buildings in a country, and I think we are certainly fortunate in the results that have been achieved here.

I also wish to make a passing reference to the absence of the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden). It was my lot to be associated with him for a considerable period of time during the progress of the war. He doubtless may have made mistakes, but I wish here and now simply to

bear testimony to this fact that the Prime Minister of this country carried a burden which very few citizens of Canada appreciated, and discharged the most onerous tasks with a conscientiousness and sense of duty that certainly challenged the respect of those who were intimately associated with him.

I also wish to make a passing reference to the mover (Mr. Cronyn) and the seconder (Mr. McGregor) of the Address. I congratulate the hon. member for London (Mr. Cronyn) in particular. He delivered an address that will rank high in the records of this Parliament. With a great deal of what he said I am in entire agreement. The seconder of the Address endeavoured to give the House a great deal of useful information, and while I cannot agree with some of the statements he made and some of the conclusions he reached, I wish also to extend to him my felicitations.

In my opinion the speech from the Throne was rather a meagre document. It was reasonable, I think, to expect, at this juncture of our history—shall I say this critical period in the life of the nation—when after the turmoil of war, we are setting about the reorganization of our affairs and the reconstruction of our society upon, we hope a new basis, that the speech from the Throne, which is supposed to foreshadow the legislation that will be brought before Parliament at this session, should contain something more than it did. I say that it was only reasonable to expect this, and had it been done it would have been more to the point. In this regard I would direct the attention of the Government to the speech of the hon. member for London (Mr. Cronyn), in which they will find much food for thought. If they wisely and closely study that speech they will, I think, find much therein that they could apply in the legislative programme which they may bring before the House. I should like, also, Mr. Speaker, to extend my congratulations to the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) who has assumed a position of very great responsibility. Under our parliamentary form of Government the leader of the Opposition has a duty which, in my judgment at any rate, is only second to that of the Prime Minister; and I am sure, no matter what our views may be we can lay long enough aside the turmoil of party strife to express the hope that his career may be long in the position he occupies.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.