

The Address—Mr. Major

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Wednesday, March 8, consideration of the motion of Mr. F. H. Larson for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Drew, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Coldwell.

Mr. W. J. Major (Glengarry): Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege for me, as I rise for the first time to take part in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, to voice a word on behalf of those whom I have the honour to represent.

At the outset may I offer my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Larson) and the seconder (Mr. Dumas) of the motion we are now debating. I listened to the hon. member for Kindersley (Mr. Larson) with much interest, and I am sure the people of his constituency have justifiable reason to be proud of their representative.

(Translation):

As for my friend and deskmate, the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Dumas), I congratulate him most heartily on the splendid manner in which he performed his task and particularly for the wonderful description he gave us of the Canadian shield which is so dear to his heart.

Mr. Speaker, I take this first opportunity to pay tribute to our leader, the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) for the great victory he won last year. He must surely be proud of the great confidence that has been placed in him by the Canadian people, so that he may keep on directing Canada's affairs with the same wisdom he has shown in the past.

(Text):

May I also join other hon. members in congratulating the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Harris) on his appointment as Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

During the last session of the house, while some hon. members constantly referred to the calmness of our new members, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I followed the deliberations with great interest; and though I was at times inclined to retort, from my sixteen years of municipal experience I felt that this would not be the wisest course. I can also assure you that with the wisdom of your guidance, Mr. Speaker, together with my endeavour to observe the workings of parliament, I have gained much benefit both for myself and for my constituency.

If I may be permitted the latitude at this time since much has been said about national

unity, I would say that this is one of the greatest assets we have in the constituency I represent. Glengarry is the home of the loyal and brave highland Scots and United Empire Loyalists who first settled it. I need not try to tell you of their congeniality; their stalwart sons who have settled all over Canada have made this unnecessary for me. Glengarry being also the easternmost county of Ontario, and bordering on Quebec, it was to be expected that people with two great traditions, the French and the Scots, could not be neighbours without eventually having an influence on one another. Consequently neighbourly comradeship led to an intermingling of these two races, so that we now find in Glengarry as many of the Quebec neighbours as of the gallant first settlers. You need not be in Glengarry long to feel the perfect harmony and understanding which exist between them.

Most of the people of our county are dependent upon agriculture for their income, either directly or indirectly. Our towns with their growing industries are largely dependent on the farmers for business. The farm producer's income is derived from three main sources—dairying, hog producing and poultry farming, of which dairying is the largest. Since the greater part of the income from our dairies is derived from milk manufactured into cheese, you can readily understand the primary importance our producers attach to the sale of and the price realized from this product.

We have been enjoying also an excellent export market in the United States for our dairy cattle. Recently the sixth t.b. test has been completed in our county, and out of 34,690 cattle tested, only nine reactors were found. This indicates the healthy condition of the cattle, and should result in an increased sale of Glengarry cattle in the export market. It will be easy to understand, therefore, that the price received for these products has a great deal to do with the happiness and success of the producers.

One might better understand the exact position of our producers if I were to refer back to the thirties, when food prices were extremely low, and when the average earnings from the production of dairy and other food products was not sufficient to provide for the immediate necessities of the producer. You can readily understand to what extent the maintenance of farm buildings and machinery had to be neglected. The anticipation with which the producer was looking forward to the time when the prices of his products would be sufficient to allow him to put an end to the continued dilapidation of his property and the replenishing of his equipment can