

that in the working out of this scheme, the government was guided solely by the interests of Canada; there can be no question in this matter of international courtesy. No one will gainsay that the possession of this great waterway on the greater part of its course, constitutes one of the major assets of this country, I would even go so far as to state that it is the main channel of our economic life. I am not an hydraulic engineer; however, I may state that from the geographical viewpoint, considering the area drained, the width and depth of its course and the enormous flow of water, the St. Lawrence is, without comparison, the most important waterway in the world. None can be compared to it, neither the Amazon, the Nile, the Volga and the Rhine. Pascal said: "Rivers are movable roads." The St. Lawrence is an imperial highway which moves along carrying towards the ocean and Europe the products of the entire northern part of this continent. Over a thousand miles of its course, it is navigable for ocean-going vessels, so much so that at Montreal, we have this unique fact, an ocean port located a thousand miles from the ocean. I represent a constituency of the province of Quebec, and so far as electric energy is concerned—for it is certainly with this purpose in view that the deep waterways of the St. Lawrence is sought—Quebec possesses all the water power it needs. Therefore, it is not as a citizen of the province of Quebec that I am looking into this problem. I consider that such a vast undertaking, one of such a vital interest to the country, should be studied without losing sight of the interests of the Dominion as a whole, and it is not simply as a French-Canadian but solely as a Canadian, one dyed in the wool, that I consider this matter.

We have the firm hope that this great enterprise of the St. Lawrence deep waterway will be carried out in the interest and to the advantage of Canada. This faith rests on the confidence we are reposing, and with good reason, on the patriotism of our Prime Minister and his colleagues. We shall not be deceived, I feel absolutely convinced of this, because they are fully aware of their responsibilities as heirs and followers of the policy laid down by Macdonald and Cartier, they are endowed with the courage and foresight necessary to see that nothing is sacrificed of our interests or nothing is neglected in order to safeguard our rights.

The speech from the throne mentions the Conference on disarmament opened at Geneva on February 2 last. Let us hope that our representatives will work efficiently to establish a lasting peace throughout the world, and

thus promote the prosperity and greatness of the British Empire and, thereby, of Canada which forms part of it.

May I now refer to the Imperial Economic Conference, which is to take place at Ottawa, on July 18, next. We are entitled to expect much good from it. This Conference, without doubt, will be one of the most important events in our country's history. The ideas advocated in London by the Prime Minister, in October, 1930, are, we are convinced, on the eve of being entirely put into practice, to the best advantage of Canada and the other dominions forming part of the British Commonwealth.

The various and numerous proposals announced in the speech from the throne lead us to believe that we shall have, during the present session, to fulfil an arduous task. Might I be allowed to wish everyone, in the fulfilment of this task, the indomitable courage, the invincible confidence and heroic tenacity which was shown by one of the most illustrious inhabitants of this Canadian soil.

We have in Three Rivers, in that city almost three centuries old, since it was founded in 1634 by the Sieur de Laviolette, that historical and glorious town of Three Rivers which I have the great privilege of representing here, we have, I say, a humble monument which narrates one of the most thrilling feats of our national history. Along our esplanade, skirting the St. Lawrence river, there is to be found a pedestal upon which the wayfarer reads with emotion:

On this site was located the house where was born, November 17, 1685, the most illustrious son of Three Rivers, Pierre Gaultier de Varennes, Sieur de la Vérendrye, the discoverer of the Rocky mountains and the Canadian West.

After untold hardships and at the cost of superhuman efforts, La Vérendrye, with his own resources only, without the help of any governing power, started from the post of Kaministikwia and went up this river, skirting Rainy Lake, where he built in 1731, Fort St. Pierre then proceeding along lake of the Woods, where he erected, the following year Fort St. Charles, he continued along the Winnipeg river, where he build in 1734, Fort de Maurepas. Crossing towards the north-west, lake Dauphin (Manitoba) and lake du Cygne, he explored the Biche (Red Deer) river and reached the source of the Saskatchewan river.

In 1738, he erected Fort LaReine (Portage la Prairie) on the north shore of the Assiniboia river and, in the angle formed by this river and that of the Red river, he erected Fort