

which has been conferred on my humble self in being called to the presidency of the League of Nations. I may say that I really felt that that moment was a most important one in my life, when the representatives of some fifty nations mounted the rostrum and solemnly deposited their votes, not perhaps so much for myself as for the country which I had the very great honour of representing. Let me add that I prized that honour all the more because I felt that it was shared by all my compatriots.

On the matters which are contained in the Speech from the Throne, I will be as brief as my honourable friend opposite. (Hon. W. B. Ross). All the matters which are contained in that Speech will come to this Chamber in concrete form. We have only the announcement of general policy, and the Senate will have to take the legislation as it comes from the Commons, apply its best attention to the various matters involved therein, and decide with absolute independence every question that reaches this House.

The Speech from the Throne, when an Address is presented in answer to it, has not the same importance, in this Chamber as in the other. I take it for granted that we simply follow an old tradition by which the House of Lords thanks His Majesty for his gracious Speech. It is but a tradition with this Chamber, because it does not bind us to the policy or policies that are mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. As the matters come before us, individually and separately, we treat them and decide upon them.

As we are meeting at the time of the year when congratulations are extended, and good wishes to our friends are expressed, I think it is in order that we should extend our congratulations and good wishes to all our fellow-Canadians. We should indeed be proud of our people. I have travelled through Europe, having crossed seven or eight countries before returning to my home, and nowhere have I seen a better country in which to live than Canada, or a more contented people. Canadians are hardworking and thrifty. I had intended to speak of the expanding trade of our country, but I may simply summarize it in a word. In the matter of exports Canada to-day stands second per capita, in the list of economic activities of all the nations. This fact affords sufficient reason to express our admiration for the work of our people in field and shop. We have expanded in all the natural resources—in the forest, in fisheries, in the mines, as well as in agriculture. In analyzing our exports it is interesting to find that our industries have done their fair and

large share. On the whole, I think we should be optimistic, and I know that if our people continue, as they will, to labour seriously, day in and day out, they will work out our salvation. We have difficult problems, but we will face them like men.

The Senate did its share last year in investigating one special matter which engrossed, and must continue to engross, our attention. I am sure the Senate of Canada will continue to do its part, and contribute its share of wisdom in steering the ship of state into safe and proper channels.

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER: Honourable gentlemen, after the statements which have been made by the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. W. B. Ross) and my honourable friend who has just taken his seat, it is not my intention to undertake a discussion of the various paragraphs in the Speech from the Throne; but there are two or three things in which I wish to associate myself with those who have spoken.

In the first place, I wish to congratulate my two honourable colleagues, who are new to this House, though not at all new to work for Canada in their own special lines in their localities so widely distant from each other in this country of vast dimensions. I am not going to utter a single word of criticism, but if they will allow me the privilege of an older man in reference to novices in this Chamber, I might just say that while I was pleased to listen to the speeches they made as read, I would have been more pleased if they had dispensed with the manuscript, and spoken as man to man, as I am quite sure they are able to do, and will hereafter do. After all, either of those gentlemen could stand right up and talk to anyone eloquently and strongly, and express his views clearly. Well, an audience is merely one man multiplied by twenty, thirty, forty or fifty, and it would not be at all difficult, if they made up their minds, to speak effectively without manuscript.

I want to associate myself with those who have extended a welcome to the newcomers in this Chamber. Some of them were old colleagues of my own in another House, where the atmosphere was not always so calm as it is reputed to be, and I think really is, in this Chamber. I am quite sure that the very moment they took their seats in this Chamber the atmosphere brightened and lightened, and they looked upon the men opposite them as brothers in a common cause, in a place where prejudices and partizanship are softened, if not entirely eliminated. Perhaps nothing has struck me so strongly, in my change from the other House to this one, than