

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Hon. W. A. BUCHANAN moved:

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious Speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament; namely:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Viscount Willingdon, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of the Dominion of Canada.

May it Please Your Excellency:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, while I rise with a full appreciation of the honour which has been conferred on me as mover of this Address, I rise with some reluctance also, because I feel that I am addressing a body composed largely of men of much wider and riper experience in public affairs than I possess.

The Address which has been brought down covers many questions, and touches upon problems affecting all parts of Canada, but it is my intention to deal merely with some of those which to my mind are of outstanding importance, and I hope to do so with as much freedom as possible from partizan spirit.

I should like to refer, first of all, to the change which has taken place in the representation of the Crown in this Dominion. Since we were last here the representative who filled the position of Governor General for four or five years has gone from us. If there was one mark which he left upon the country more strongly than another it was, I think, his desire to become acquainted with Canada at large. He always preached the doctrine of unity, and thus, in my judgment, set an example not only to those of us who sit in Parliament, but to the people generally. If there is division in Canada it is largely due to the fact that there is not complete knowledge of our country. Lord Byng made it his business during his term of office to visit

almost all the nooks and corners of Canada. I doubt very much whether any other representative of the King covered so much territory, or saw so much of Canada as he did; and he has gone back to Great Britain, may I say, as an ambassador of Canada, for already he is presenting to the people of the Motherland his impressions of this country, and advancing its interests.

To replace him we have a distinguished public servant, a man who has filled positions in public life in Great Britain and the British Dominions, a man of wide experience in public affairs who, just before coming to Canada, fulfilled a delicate and important mission for the British Government in China, if I recollect precisely. Though he has been with us only a few months, I think I may safely say that he has already won a very warm place in the esteem and affection of the people of Canada.

Another intimation in the Speech from the Throne appeals to all Canadians, and particularly to those of the Province of Alberta, in which I happen to live. The announcement is made that the Prince of Wales is to be with us next year on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of Confederation. I look upon the Prince of Wales not only as a member of the Royal Family, but also as a citizen of Canada, because this is one part of the Empire that he has singled out for his affections and interest. He has taken up in that Province a property which is not only becoming renowned throughout this Dominion, but is advertising Canada in other parts of the world. He is setting an example to our ranchers and farmers by raising upon that ranch in the foot-hills of Alberta pure-bred stock that will improve the live-stock business in Canada, and also help to improve it across the line, in the United States.

Probably the most important event of recent months has been the Imperial Conference just concluded in London. There may be differences of opinion as to the conclusions reached by that Conference, but I am bold enough to say that in my judgment, no matter what has been done towards extending greater freedom and responsibility to the Dominions of the Empire and furthering their autonomy, nothing has occurred that will weaken the ties that exist between those Dominions and Great Britain and the monarchy. I believe that the greater the freedom conceded to the Dominions, the stronger will be the ties that hold them together within the Empire. I think that has been the case throughout our whole history as an Empire. We can recall the early struggles in this and other Dominions for what they considered responsible government and greater freedom, and as concessions