

*The Address—Mr. Poulin*

years ago I sent my oldest daughter to Moncton, New Brunswick. Last year I sent my oldest son to Ottawa. During the present year my second daughter is in Toronto.

We all wish for peace, harmony and *bonne entente* in this wonderful country of ours, but this can be obtained only through mutual understanding, which can be achieved only through a common language. I do not hesitate to say that not only is it the duty of French Canadians to endeavour to learn the language of the majority; English-speaking Canadians should endeavour also to learn something of the language of the minority. This afternoon I was glad to hear the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) deliver a speech in the finest French an English-speaking man could use.

*(Translation):*

Mr. Speaker, I wish to carry on for a few minutes in French. The throne speech contains some extremely interesting pronouncements of great import. Among these must be numbered the abolishment of appeals to the privy council, a step which should have been taken long since. We see no reason why Canadians should not have confidence in the fairness of their own supreme court, whatever the racial origin or the past political allegiance of the members of the judiciary. In fact, a decision of the privy council, epoch-making in the province of Quebec, sanctions this attitude, I believe, on the part of the people of Quebec. Would it have been better to consult the provinces? Bearing this proviso in mind, Mr. Speaker, I think I can say that this will be an excellent piece of legislation, even though it comes very late.

We are informed in the speech from the throne that the government will endeavour to obtain for our country the right to amend its own constitution "in relation to matters not coming within the jurisdiction of the legislatures of the provinces". I believe this to be acceptable, although I realize that perhaps the door will remain open to acrimonious differences of opinion between the federal and provincial governments, as to whether a particular matter does or does not come within the exclusive purview of the federal government.

I believe, and this is my humble opinion, that in all circumstances the provinces should first be consulted.

I shall now pass on to another subject and if I may, Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a suggestion to the government. I believe that special aid should be provided to the crippled, to those who suffer from chronic physical or mental ailments, to those who are handicapped by some infirmity for the rest of their lives. Others have made this

same suggestion in the house since the beginning of the session. I am referring, of course, to those people who are bereft of the necessities of life.

The state of mental depression in which these people find themselves all too often may be ascribed not so much to their physical handicap as to the fact that others around them are so much better off. There is nothing socialistic about helping these people. On the contrary, that would only be a Christian and humanitarian attitude.

I would also like to suggest to the government that the family allowances be raised somewhat; shall we say up to ten dollars per child?

While practising out in the country I have had an opportunity to see at first hand, so to speak, the way in which this allowance money is spent. Time and time again mothers would bring their little ones of all ages to me to be examined, even though they did not consider them to be sick, but just to find out if anything could be done to improve their health. After their children have been examined and prescribed for, when necessary, these mothers are very proud to bring their allowance cheque out of their handbags, saying: "This is how we can take good care of our children."

I know for a certainty that the same thing happens when these little children must be clothed, fed and, in short, supplied with all they need for their normal development in order that they may become sturdy Canadian citizens.

I believe that increased family allowances would help to raise the standard of living of the small children in our large families.

There is more and more talk in this country about social welfare; there is even talk about state medicine. I realize that it is a ticklish subject. I am perfectly aware that a large number, I might say the majority, of the political groups in this house are in favour of state medicine. I do not say all the groups because I have just seen one of our colleagues—a doctor—make a sign in protest. Naturally this does not include every one but I may say that there is a heavy demand for state medicine. I believe that increased family allowances would greatly help the welfare of our people and would undoubtedly postpone the advent of state medicine to some extent. In fact this delay might give the Canadian government and the people a chance to see what happens in other countries. We could thus profit by the experience of other countries and avoid the many mistakes made by these countries.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether I would be breaking the rules of the house if I