

*The Address—Mr. Y. Leduc*

in reply to the speech from the throne. Tradition requiring that he should be thanked for this, it is with pleasure that I wish to discharge this pleasant duty. I should like to extend to him, at the beginning of this new year, the respectful and grateful good wishes of my constituents, for health, happiness and peace. And to these wishes I also desire to add my own.

(Text):

Mr. Speaker, may I take this opportunity of offering to my dear French and English speaking colleagues, as well as to our assistants in this house my best wishes for a happy new year.

Upon resuming the sittings of this house we pause to deplore certain deaths and departures, and at the same time to take note of the arrival of new figures, some already known, but now covered with glory and greater responsibilities. The grim reaper has cut a swath in our ranks since the first session of this parliament. Even recently his fatal hand has torn two other public figures from the affections of their families, one the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Wood) and the other the Social Credit representative of the constituency of Battle River-Camrose (Mr. Fair). The former had sat in this house since 1949 and the latter since 1935, so they spent many years in the service of their fellow citizens and their country.

Time did not afford me the opportunity or the pleasure of knowing them intimately or even during the parliamentary debates, but I am aware of the warm memory which they have left in this house. To their respective families, to the leaders of their parties, to their friends and constituents, may I offer in the name of all those present our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy.

It is certainly a great satisfaction to those whose political careers are climaxed by appointments in other fields. However, those who remain find, with a mixture of joy and sadness, that their absence undoubtedly leaves a void. Three former cabinet members in this government are now exercising their talents in other fields. Undoubtedly, this is the result of official recognition of the numerous and eminent services they have rendered this nation. You have no doubt guessed by now that I am referring to the Hon. Brooke Claxton, who put aside the honours of his political activities to accept important responsibilities in the financial world, and to the Hon. D. C. Abbott, who has become a member of the highest court in the country, as well as to the Hon. Lionel Chevrier, president of the St. Lawrence seaway authority. To these three great servants of our country may I offer, in the name of all members of this

[Mr. Leduc (Verdun).]

house, additional congratulations to those expressed personally, and also our sincere wishes for their success. As we say on such occasions, *ad multos et faustissimos annos*.

(Translation):

On behalf of the French-Canadian population especially, I wish to call to mind the moving memories left in this house by the Hon. Lionel Chevrier. What a fine and distinguished personality! I have been in a position to appreciate his excellent formation, his moral and intellectual education, his transcendent talent, his high ability in the fields of politics, eloquence and management. How easy it was for him to state clearly and with urbanity the problems of his department, using one language and then the other as required, the way a ship goes from one port of call to another, from a near shore to a distant one! It is not surprising that the Prime Minister and his colleagues have deemed it advisable to channel his competence and his activities toward the very river along which he has exerted and will exert for a long time his beneficial influence.

But in parliament, as elsewhere, life goes on! In order to fill certain vacancies, the house has acquired new members, for instance my hon. friend and namesake, the member for Gatineau (Mr. Leduc) who is not unknown here; the member for Trinity (Mr. Carrick), who has the honour of seconding the motion for an address in reply to the speech from the throne; the member for Stormont (Mr. Lavigne); the member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Richardson) and, last but not least, the member for St. Antoine-Westmount (Mr. Marler), about whom I shall have something very special to say in a moment.

My hon. friends in the opposition will certainly appreciate my leaving them the chance to be the first to congratulate the new occupants of the seats that had become vacant through the death of some members. May I be permitted to associate myself with their respective leaders in their compliments. The opposition will not be satisfied with that however. They will very likely—it is their right—criticize the various bills and the other government measures they will be asked to consider. They will do so with more or less vehemence or assurance and always for constructive purposes if, as I hope their thoughts, their statements and their attitudes spring from courtesy, straightforwardness, integrity, and from a courage which can reach the level of pride. That is the best way to do something useful, and, according to Sir Richard Southwell, to be of good faith.

I would be angry with myself, Mr. Speaker, for not inviting the members of this house to commend the appointment to the cabinet