

interest in Canada, to the detriment of genuine and true electors of the country. I wish also to speak of the unjust accusations which were hurled at the province of Quebec during the election in order to excite against that province the prejudices of the other provinces; but I have decided to postpone my remarks on those subjects until a later date, and until such time as I have obtained the information which I am asking for by the motions which are to be made to-morrow.

Hon. N. A. BELCOURT: Honourable gentlemen, I had not intended taking any part in the debate upon the Address, and it was not until my honourable friend who leads this House with so much ability gave us his interesting and very eloquent speech yesterday that I felt a desire or inspiration to say anything. My object is purely and simply to point out what seems to me to be at the present moment the supreme and paramount duty of Canada and of every one in Canada.

First of all, may I join with those who have preceded me in extending hearty congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the Address. There was little, if anything at all, which the gentlemen said to which every member of this House could not with a clear conscience subscribe. I was particularly interested, if I may be permitted to say so, in the speech delivered by my honourable friend from the Gulf division (Hon. Mr. L'Espérance). I was impressed with the facility and the felicity with which he expressed his thoughts in the French language. I am told that my honourable friend has devoted practically all of his life to commercial pursuits, and that he has not had an opportunity of perfecting his proficiency in that very difficult and always susceptible of improvement language, the French language. It is all the more credit to him that he was enabled on this occasion, in moving the Address, which is always a more or less perilous task, to make a speech in French which would be worthy of any French audience anywhere in the world. While he was speaking, I could not help reflecting how unfair and unjust is the accusation so frequently made against the French that is spoken in Canada—that we speak patois in the province of Quebec. Well, if my honourable friend's French is patois, it is patois that is thoroughly understood and appreciated in France, and would adorn even la Chambre des Députés.

Hon. Mr. DAVID.

The honourable gentleman was followed by the honourable member from Red Deer (Hon. Mr. Michener), and he also made a very finished speech. I was impressed with the declaration which he made with regard to the use of the French language. But I wonder if my honourable friend from Red Deer considered for one moment how he is going to carry out his very laudable intention of seeing that his sons are not handicapped in the manner with which he told us he suffers, for it was only the other day that in the province from which my honourable friend comes, and in the province which adjoins it, the trustees of all the schools solemnly passed a resolution to banish forever the French language from the schools of those two provinces. If my honourable friend is going to carry out his laudable intention, he will have to send his sons to Quebec or Montreal; otherwise I am very much afraid that his sons will be handicapped in the way in which he fears.

My honourable friend the leader of the Government (Hon. Sir James Lougheed) felt also that it was his duty to say something about the use of the French language, and when he started I was hoping that he would not content himself merely with the pious wish to which he gave expression. After saying something which was not very clear or very definite—at all events not very compromising—with regard to the French language, he turned to the gentleman who has the honour and responsibility of sitting very close to him (Hon. Mr. Landry) and told him that it was his duty to see that my honourable friend's past deficiency should be removed in the future. I should have thought that my honourable friend would not have been content to say so little to the point with regard to the use of the French language.

I want also to congratulate my honourable friend thoroughly and sincerely—and not commiserate with him at all—upon the fact that new duties have been assigned to him. The evidence which he has given in the House and to the country, of ability to do a tremendous amount of work and do it efficiently, was indeed ample justification for the additional burden imposed upon him. I desire also to congratulate my honourable friend who sits next to him (Hon. Mr. Robertson) upon the fact that he has been called to perform additional and very responsible duties in connection with the administration of public affairs. The Senate also is to be congratulated upon the fact that new duties have been assigned to my honourable friends. It is a recogni-