

*The Address—Mr. Deslières*

many of our great political leaders have spoken since confederation; yet, the generous sympathy shown by my colleagues gives me confidence.

May I first be permitted to thank the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) for the signal honour he bestows today upon me by asking me to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne, delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the seventh session of the twenty-first parliament.

I think I can also express the gratefulness and thankfulness of all Canadians for his continuous and untiring efforts to ensure the good administration of the country.

He has not spared himself and, in the past few months, has continued to show his interest in the progress of our industrial districts. Last August, for instance, he travelled through the Saguenay-Lake St. John district and last September he visited British Columbia.

It is not surprising that, thanks to these numerous contacts with our Canadian way of life, in all its various aspects, the leader of our government should show himself to be so perfectly aware of all our problems, whenever these are brought to his attention.

Through its activity and its competence, our government has succeeded in maintaining in this country economic circumstances so favourable as to have evoked the greatest praise from the other countries of the free world. Not only do these countries think highly of Canada and of its administration, but they send their representatives to this country so that through a study of our methods they may find a solution to their own problems.

The member for Brome-Missisquoi, who has been honoured with the task of moving this address, knows that this honour is more properly borne by the people of his constituency. That is why I feel today a legitimate pride in addressing you on behalf of my constituents.

My constituency is, in a way, a reduced-scale model of Canada, in that it includes all the ethnical and economic elements which, from sea to sea, go to make up our beautiful country.

In the first place, one may find there, as everywhere else in Canada, the descendants of the two great races which have, side by side—and at times in spite of differences of views and opinion—helped build, in this land of America, a nation and civilization which it would be impossible today to confuse with

any other, either in Europe or America. We owe this distinction to the mutual and constant co-operation which these two races have shown in order to create a very distinct entity called the Canadian nation.

From an economic viewpoint, one may also find in Brome-Missisquoi, on a reduced scale, all the elements of our economic life, from the different types of agriculture to the development of our natural resources and the manufacturing of finished products.

We do not claim to be able to reach the production records set in some other parts of the country, in one or the other of the different branches of economic activities. However, by virtue of that synthesis, from an economic as well as an ethnical point of view, I get the impression, when setting forth the feelings and the aspirations of the citizens of my riding, that I am speaking for all Canadians regardless of their tongue, their belief or their economic status.

*(Text):*

It is with great pride, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Brome-Missisquoi share with the rest of Canada the enviable position of having side by side the two great races which have been so instrumental in the tremendous progress experienced by our country since confederation.

This fact in itself is a clear indication of the good will and mutual trust existing in that part of the country which is commonly called the eastern townships. That community has always been a living example of the mutual understanding which must exist between the two great races—an example of the effort to which Canada owes its present high standing in every field of human endeavour and achievement.

Before going further with my remarks, may I extend my respects to you, Mr. Speaker, and assure you of my complete co-operation with you in the high office which you have always filled with dignity and impartiality.

*(Translation):*

May I now recall two losses which have affected the parliamentary world.

First, I would like to recall the memory of my predecessor whom we mourn: Henri Gosselin. His premature death is for us a deep sorrow.

Mr. Gosselin gave all his time to the welfare of his district, of his province and of his country; he remained for us a model of devotion to public service, ready to sacrifice his time and even his very health.

The House of Commons mourns also the loss of one of its oldest as well as one of its most