

The Address—Mr. Church

occupy, and to which you were elected on the unanimous vote of the House of Commons.

I always look upon the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne as an opportunity to bring matters before the house and the country. I do not speak from the party standpoint because I am not and never have been a hidebound party man. I make some mistakes. We all have our faults. You may speak of the Toronto district as you like, but since 1935 we have never had a representative in the cabinet. We used to have five or six. Is it fair that we should not have one? Is that one of the cardinal principles of Liberalism as we have it in this country at the present time? Sir Wilfrid Laurier used to visit the city of Toronto, as did the Prime Minister; and I know of no city where they were given a better reception than in Toronto. The present Prime Minister will always be well received there. He has opened our winter fair. He has had a keen interest in the city and is well liked there.

I am speaking today without any preparation because I did not wish to occupy too much of the time of the house or to prevent the address in reply from being adopted. But is it fair that the city of Toronto should have no cabinet representative? The greatest financial district is in our city. It pays nearly forty per cent of every dollar the government collects. The city of Toronto is a centre of trade and commerce, the centre of education in the province of Ontario, the site of the university of Toronto, which has given so much to medicine, the arts and the sciences, and is the greatest taxpaying centre in the dominion today. Is it fair, right or proper, under the name of Liberalism, that that great district has never had a representative in the cabinet since 1935? I think it is a great mistake for any government to take that position, and I am in hopes that we shall have a representative. There are in the Liberal ranks some good men from our city, and I hope that the situation to which I have referred will be remedied accordingly.

There are some other matters that I wish to bring to the attention of the house. I believe that the debate on the address affords an opportunity of calling to the attention of the house and of the country grievances which the country has—and the country is full of grievances at the present time. For example, in the Toronto district, where there is a shortage of housing, there is no cheap land. Last year there was a long debate in this house on prefabricated housing. In our city only 117 houses have been built in the last year. We did not have this difficulty in the past. As the former member for Davenport said in this house in answer to the

bright young minister from Nova Scotia, cheap land is what is wanted. I remember that the former member for Davenport told the minister that land used to be obtainable for \$6 a foot right back of the district I used to represent in the house when I first came here, in northwest Toronto, away out from where the soldiers built their homes, then all around the fringe of the city starting away down east of little York and east Toronto, right north to the township of York and right straight across the city of Toronto. Land was cheap then.

It is unfortunate that we do not get more support from the steam railways. Toronto is the only large Canadian or American city I know of that has no suburban steam service. The people cannot get out to the country. The city has spent millions of dollars on roads, giving services to the surrounding districts; street cars and buses, water, sewers and many of these other municipal services have been given far beyond the city limits into the township and the county of York.

I remember being one of the heads of the city when the township of York, which I described as going around the city to the east, north and west, took only one hundred horsepower from the city. The city had to provide the poles and give them that cheap light and power at cost, directly. That action of providing transportation and cheap power did a great deal for housing. I hope something will be done to give us a suburban steam service, because there is no cheap land in the city. We are the only city I know of that lacks suburban steam service. The city of Montreal has such a service given by the rival systems, the C.P.R. and the C.N.R., with the distance between the tracks equal to about the width of this room. During the summertime the people are, by this service, taken out to those villages and towns on the border of the St. Lawrence river, such as Beaconsfield, Dixie, Lakeside and Dorval. People can live out there for eight months of the year. Some of them live there all the year round. In Toronto we have not that suburban steam service. I am sorry the railways do not do something more for us.

I believe that the time is coming when we should be up and doing something for labour. I have always had the nearly unanimous support of the working classes and of the trade union movement ever since I entered public life—as a member of the school board, as alderman for five years, as controller for five years and as mayor of the city for seven years. The city of Toronto system bought out the old street railway that gave service only to Bloor street practically; and the city from 1911 to 1921 built itself civic car lines. About sixty per cent