

The Address—Mr. Stitt (Selkirk)

Then in conclusion, moved no doubt by that great emotion which possesses all great souls, he wrote:

And there's another country, I've heard of
long ago—
Most dear to them that love her, most great
to them that know.
We may not count her armies; we may not
see her King,
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is
suffering.
And soul by soul and silently her shining
bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all
her paths are peace.

There is a power that rules nations, a power that rules the activities of men. If we only have faith in our country; if we only have belief in an ever-ruling Providence; if we only work together; if unity is our shield and integrity our buckler, and if courage is our sword we can, with belief in God and in enthusiasm for humanity, realize our place among the nations of the world. It is with great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, that I second the motion of my hon. colleague from Three Rivers—St. Maurice (Mr. Bourgeois).

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): After listening to the motion which you have just put to the house, Mr. Speaker, and particularly after hearing what the mover of the address (Mr. Bourgeois) and the seconder (Mr. Stitt, Selkirk) have said in such courteous terms about His Excellency the Governor General, I again experience and must express regret that the first act of this parliament should not have been one of extending to the king's representative in this country the courtesy of a word of thanks for his first address from the throne before taking up the time of the House of Commons with matters that are personal to the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett). Parliamentary institutions under the British flag have many time-honoured customs which deserve to be respected to the full, and I feel that I should be remiss in my duty as one who believes in the British constitution and its practices, and likes to see those practices followed to the letter, if I did not take exception to this strange discourtesy which has been shown His Excellency the newly-arrived Governor General in this country by the first act of this parliament to-day.

I intend to say a few words in criticism of the speech from the throne, and for that reason it may be necessary for me, so that there can be no thought in anyone's mind that I am at all reflecting on His Excellency the Governor General, to say a word about the

[Mr. J. H. Stitt.]

significance of the speech, the manner of its preparation and the part it is intended to play in the proceedings of parliament. Before I do so, however, I should like at once to follow the customary practice of extending congratulations to the hon. gentlemen who have moved and seconded the address. The mover of the address, the hon. member for Three Rivers, was, I think, appropriately accorded that honour as being the most recent arrival in this house. He will not expect me to congratulate him on his victory, but I do congratulate him very warmly on the manner of his first address in the House of Commons. He comes here with the reputation of one who stands high in his profession; and indeed all who have listened to him this afternoon must have realized that he is accustomed to public speaking and also that as a skilled attorney he is capable of making the best of a bad case. I congratulate him on the manner in which he has discharged his duties to-day. The hon. member for Selkirk has spoken in the house before and to-day he has, I think, acquitted himself in the same creditable manner as he has on previous occasions. He is one of the younger members of the house and this afternoon has given us an interesting, informative and entertaining address. May I reassure him at once, with regard to any fears he may think I entertain of the double-barrelled leadership of the Conservative party. I have realized from the start that this would mean a double offensive so far as I am concerned. But, as he says, the people at this time are more than ever interested in the conditions as they exist in the country; and are going to pay more attention to argument than to sound. He need not be in the least alarmed that having been swept off their feet in one general election by one big gun, the people are likely to be carried away a second time, even if there are two commanders-in-chief instead of one.

Let me return to the speech from the throne. The speech, as all hon. members know, but as some of the public may not know, while it is delivered by His Excellency the Governor General is prepared by the Prime Minister, and His Excellency the Governor General, in presenting to both houses of parliament the address which he does, is not in any way responsible for what appears in its paragraphs but gives to the country what the Prime Minister has prepared as a guide to the proceedings of parliament. It is particularly as a guide to the business of the session on the matters that are likely to be brought forward in legislation, and the more