

We contemplate with similar pleasure and satisfaction the coming celebration of the silver jubilee of the reign of His Majesty King George. I am sure that we feel that the bond of our allegiance to the empire has meant a great deal in the past, and I feel that it is stronger than ever at the present time, due perhaps to the times through which we have been passing. We have watched, with satisfaction and pleasure, the influence of the British empire throughout the world at various times when the forces of dissatisfaction seemed to threaten our very civilization. So we have every confidence in the future, and we believe that our children's children will appreciate to a greater degree what that allegiance stands for, because the test of that appreciation comes in our days of adversity.

I do not propose to keep this house longer. It is my pleasure to move, seconded by the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorcency (Mr. Dorion) that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer the humble thanks of this house to His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both houses of parliament.

Mr. C. N. DORION (Quebec-Montmorcency) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, it is a redoubtable honour to be called upon, one of the very first, to open the debate on the Address in reply to the speech from the throne. I feel that this honour falls to the lot of the official minority of the country as well as to those kindly constituents who, in 1930, were good enough to charge me with representing them on the floor of this parliament. Heir to a mandate that so many illustrious names have made famous, that brought to this Chamber the Chauveaus, the Carons, the Fitzpatricks, the Pelletiers, the Casgrains, I should like at least as a modest disciple, to be the bearer here of something of the convictions that always guided their every act in public life. Those great public men took real pleasure in visiting as frequently as possible this riding with its twenty-five parishes scattered about the foothills of the Laurentides and on the Ile d'Orléans, where the inhabitants, more than elsewhere, have kept intact their pride of race and the nobility of their customs. Hence it is in their name, on behalf of the thousands of workers and farmers who go to make up almost the entire voting strength of the riding, on behalf of the salaried workers and their employers, the relations between whom are at the very foundation of justice and equity, and particularly on behalf of a numerically strong, and courageous youth whose ideals are still

[Mr. Rowe.]

vibrant with the breath of life, that I intend to take part in the debate which has just begun.

It is meet that I should first express our regret at the resignation of him who, during the last four years, has presided with so much dignity and the freest independence over the deliberations of this honourable house. Always at his post, armed with a profound knowledge of parliamentary law, ever anxious to uphold for every one of the members the exercise of his rights and the enjoyment of his privileges, illness suddenly struck him at his task and forced him to retire to his member's seat. Those were the conditions under which you were called upon to succeed him, Mr. Speaker. The confidence thus shown you proves more eloquently and better than I might ever do, the extent to which your qualities are known and appreciated. Just as to your honourable predecessor we express our hope for his prompt recovery, in the same way are wafted up to you, sir, our homage and our heartiest congratulations.

It is also fitting to recall that with the year 1935 we are approaching the 25th anniversary of the coronation of Our Gracious Sovereign. The entire membership, I feel sure, will permit me to renew, in all humility, the expression of our attachment, of our loyalty and of our admiration. What a glorious reign, and how pregnant with history! What a fruitful and active career! What a series of imposing events have passed before our eyes since, on the death of Edward VII, His Majesty George V ascended the throne, and took in hand the rudder of the British Empire! While in other countries, throughout the universe, the most varied political systems were made and unmade, turned topsy-turvy; while here and there thrones that appeared as solid as a rock, were overthrown in tumult amid the violent shocks of revolution; while immediately after the armistice certain countries let down their masters, laid down their arms and launched headlong into the most venturesome experiments, the British Empire, thanks to Our Sovereign, thanks to wise guidance and the flexibility of British institutions, has remained intact and unshakable.

Descendent of a Basque who, towards 1680, left France to till the soil at Charlesbourg, offspring of eight generations of ploughmen who remained faithful to their rights, to their language and to their traditions, a number of whom served as militia captains under the English regime, I am none the less proud to belong to a British nation and to have a