

I hope you will further excuse the very legitimate pride which I feel in representing in this House this county of Rimouski, so liberal in traditions, and whose political history is written in gold letters in the annals of our confederation.

I feel, Sir, a very deep emotion when I recollect that to-day I fill the place of my father as representative of this beautiful county. During twenty-five years of his political career he devoted the whole of his heart and energy to the fulfilment of his mandate, and in following in his footsteps I cherish but one thought, it is to live up to this reputation of courtesy, sincerity and frankness which characterized him. There are very few in this House, Sir, who, as colleagues, sat with him in the old parliament. The Hon. Mr. Lemieux was one of them and his old friend had predicted at the very outset his brilliant political career which has brought so much credit to our race. This political career, Sir, he has crowned by occupying the Speaker's chair and fulfilling the duties attached to it with so much courtesy, ability, tact and fairness. May I hope that he will share with the son a little of this good friendship which he had for the father, and, especially, that he will be very indulgent towards me in the first efforts of my political career.

Mr. Speaker, may I further be allowed to recall to this House your ex-colleague Mr. Emmanuel d'Anjou. He has thought proper to retire from the federal arena to accept a position in the public service. He left behind him, in the county of Rimouski, the reputation of a gifted young popular speaker who expressed himself with ease and warmth. He did honour to his mandate, and I am sure that all his old colleagues associate themselves with me in wishing him joy and success in his new career.

The task, Mr. Speaker, which has been entrusted to me weighs heavily upon me, and with some anxiety, I realize that if it was rather easy to sit on the floor of the House and help my ministers in answering questions in connection with the estimates of a department, it is an entirely different proposition for me to rise from my seat and attempt to fathom the important question that His Excellency the Governor General has just submitted to the consideration of this House.

However, remembering that the motto which we adopted in Conventum on taking leave from our Alma Mater was: "Audaces fortuna juvat," I dare to be bold and submit to the House a few remarks which the Speech from the Throne suggests to me.

There is, Sir, in the Speech from the Throne a brief and very precise passage, and of such

importance to the economic life of the nation that it overshadows all other questions. We notice in this speech that the government realizing the capital importance of this question intend taking up the railway freight rates and tariff.

We now come, Sir, to the great stumbling-block of the natural development of our trade, the main impediment to the increase in our exports, and especially the greatest factor hindering our farming population from realizing the sale and marketing of their products. This problem affects the whole country, and, if the recriminations of the west seem to express themselves in a louder tone, I can assure you, Sir, that the calmer agitation of the east is no way less forcible.

May I suggest to the government, while considering this question, to apply those same principles of scientific evolution and political economy that were adopted at the last session regarding tariff reductions on raw material. Let them classify as raw material, the products of the soil, our coal and our fisheries. By applying this economical principle to the natural resources of the soil, and by reducing as much as possible this special form of taxation which weighs so heavily on all classes of our population, you will get to the root itself of the greatest obstacle which hinders the development of our national life, you will reduce the cost of living, and by allowing the masses to realize the ready cash so necessary for purchasing power you will help the producer and consumer as well as all classes of society. In my opinion, sir, that is the most important part of the sessional programme and I can vouch for an unanimous approval throughout the whole country if we, belonging to the federal deputation, find a solution to this problem. You will note, Mr. Speaker, that besides our transportation problems, the development of our seaports, those of our great river in particular, must be the special object of consideration by the government. Here is at last Sir, the dawn of that day so long awaited, and we all have the firm hope that the development of our national deep water harbour of our beautiful port of Quebec, will materialize at last. Is it necessary for me, Sir, to draw the attention of this House to the fact that before considering this undertaking the government gathered data and expert information of such a definite kind, thanks to the admirable report, plans and estimates of the Quebec harbour commissioners, that our large shipping concerns, as well as the railway companies, have already given the assurance of their full and entire approval to the carrying out of this project. Is there need, Sir, to add that this all important project is not a local one; it is a national undertaking which affects not only the province of Quebec,