

The Address—Mr. Follwell

You may rest assured, Mr. Speaker, that I was more than pleased the other day when I heard our Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) say in this house, as reported at page 58 of *Hansard*, that we were now striving to find markets—

... for our increasing production; but we do not want to find markets which will absorb our products and give us nothing in return.

I will add here that it will please those I have the honour to represent, particularly those of the farmer class, to read further in the same speech of the Prime Minister:

... those loans of Canadian dollars will eventually have to be either written off or reimbursed in commodities. We will have to take goods for everything owed us—or take nothing.

This is undoubtedly the right attitude; and with the preparations actively under way for further multilateral trade negotiations later in the present year, as stated in the throne speech, we will surely find better markets to the advantage of all. In this way, if we can assure our farming population of a steady income, it will in turn have the purchasing power necessary to buy the commodities manufactured in the factories by the working class; and we shall thus be in a position to avoid unemployment and ensure the true prosperity which we truly deserve, having regard to our position in the economic field and the wealth of our natural resources.

Finally, as a result of consideration of the policy concerning the control and the orderly decontrol of rents, let us hope that we shall be in a position to afford the worker housing within his means. In this manner and with Divine Providence blessing our deliberations, I am sure our great country will continue to go ahead and that all of us here, as legislators, will be in a position to make come true the prophecy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier: "The twentieth century will be the century of Canada."

Mr. F. S. Follwell (Hastings South): At the outset of my few remarks, Mr. Speaker, may I compliment the two young new members, like myself, who moved and seconded the address in reply to the speech from the throne. They have already been complimented, but may I join in complimenting them once more. They certainly did a really good job.

May I also congratulate the government on the progressive manner in which they have proceeded—as they usually do when the Liberal party forms the government—in establishing a Department of Citizenship and Immigration. I am sure all the members in this house agree that it is a department that can be of vital service in helping this great country of ours to achieve its ultimate destiny. In looking around for a man to head that

[Mr. Bruneau.]

responsible department I am sure the government have chosen the right one in the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Harris), who has been privileged to serve in this House of Commons for a number of years. He is from a constituency that has thrived; he is from the grass roots of a farming community. He knows full well the humility and the greatness of Canadians.

May I refer to a remark that was made here this evening by the hon. member for Souris (Mr. Ross), who mentioned the fact that in the cabinet today there are no men with civic experience. As he has said so, it no doubt is so; I shall have to admit that I do not know whether that is right, but I presume it is. May I point out to the hon. member however that on the government benches there are many men who have served through the municipal offices in civic councils and who are at the present time serving in that capacity. I am pleased to say that I have had ten years' civic experience and was honoured by my own city of Belleville on three occasions in serving them as their chief magistrate.

Mr. Gardiner: I used to be mayor of my town too.

Mr. Follwell: May I say to the members of the opposition that with men with civic experience sitting on the government side at the present time and with those men joining in the government caucuses, the cabinet ministers have the ear of the people through their private members. Through my association of only this one term, I am convinced that the cabinet are prepared to listen to the requests from private members. I believe that our cabinet today is in that respect unlike the cabinet of the late Right Hon. R. B. Bennett.

In the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne I believe some latitude is allowed with regard to the subjects on which a member may speak. I should like to make just one or two observations with regard to experiences that I have been able to absorb through sitting in this house for one session. On the day on which I first came to parliament last session, I had the pleasure of visiting with one of the older members who had served for a number of years. He recommended to me that it would be wise to sit through the session and endeavour to absorb as much of the parliamentary procedure as possible and to observe the way in which government was carried on in the House of Commons. I admit that I still am a very new student of parliamentary affairs; but I assure hon. members that I am endeavouring to absorb, and I sincerely hope and trust that I shall have the opportunity