

*The Address—Mr. St. Laurent*

most of his colleagues have been here for a few sessions, the difficulties become even more serious. I am sure, however, that we are proud, and that the constituents of the hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the address are also proud, of the manner in which they acquitted themselves. They spoke with distinction and impressiveness, and they made constructive suggestions. I think it will be an advantage for us to hear from them quite frequently in the course of our debates.

The hon. member for Welland (Mr. McMillan) has already served his country well. After graduating from Queen's university as a gold medallist in medicine, he spent three years overseas with his colleague, the hon. member for Lanark, to whom he referred in such gracious terms yesterday, in the Canadian army medical corps during world war I. Since 1920, following a year of medical work in New York, he has practised medicine at Thorold. He has been president of the Lincoln county medical association, and a member of the board of governors of the St. Catharines general hospital where he is now assistant chief surgeon and vice-chairman of the staff. His recent election to parliament was not the first time the hon. gentleman had been elected to public office. As mayor, and as a member of the public utilities commission of Thorold, he had already established for himself a reputation for service in public affairs. I am sure that his professional knowledge and practical experience will be of value to us in the consideration of many of the problems with which we shall have to deal in this house.

The hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Breton) is one of the younger members of the house, but those of us who were able to follow him in both languages heard, I think it is fair to say, an address of real merit. After completing his studies at the university of Montreal, the hon. member was admitted to the bar in 1932. He has since practised his profession in Joliette. He comes to the House of Commons with a sound reputation arising out of his achievements at the bar. I think we would all wish to say to him that he has added to that reputation by the manner in which he seconded the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I believe it is fair to say that the achievements of both these hon. members will serve as a fine introduction to the consideration and discussion of the many questions with which we shall have to deal during the session. Their speeches were highly gratifying to us in their demonstration of the ability which these newly elected members

have brought to parliament. I should like to extend to them very sincere congratulations.

As the house is aware, the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm is with us because his predecessor was chosen as a party leader in the provincial field. More recently another hon. member has been similarly honoured. I am sure all of us, regardless of party, will join in personal congratulations to the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Thomson). This practice of moving from one field to the other is not new. In one of the provinces both the premier and the leader of the opposition went from this house to the positions they now occupy. While there is much to be gained by keeping federal and provincial politics apart, I do not believe any of us really complain about these federal-provincial interchanges, particularly since the traffic has not been all one way. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) had been premiers of their provinces. The leader of the opposition had been the premier of the great province of Ontario before coming to this house. The premier of one of the maritime provinces came from the premierships to this house, and later went back to the premierships of his province. I believe these exchanges show that Canadians who have the ability and the will to serve their fellow citizens are willing to serve them in any capacity in which their fellow citizens think they will be of use to the community.

Mr. Speaker, the leader of the opposition has complained that the speech from the throne is not very revealing. I noticed while the hon. gentleman was speaking that there were three of the important announcements in the speech from the throne that did not seem to have caught his attention, or to which at least he did not see fit to refer in his criticism. One was the announcement that we are to be asked early in the session to authorize Canadian participation in the integrated force being organized under the North Atlantic treaty. The next was the announcement that we are to be asked to approve substantially increased expenditures for defence. The third, which is of importance and which bears upon one of the matters discussed by the leader of the opposition, was the announcement that our approval would be sought for appropriate Canadian participation in the Colombo plan, and in technical assistance to the underdeveloped areas. These are matters of some consequence, and I believe they indicate the manner in which the government intends to recommend to this house that the gravity of the present situation should be recognized.