

*Commonwealth of Nations—Ghana*

I agree heartily with what the Prime Minister has said to the effect that some credit should be given to the United Kingdom. This move is a complete answer to the charges of colonialism so frequently levelled against her. Surely there could not be a finer way to refute those false charges which are made from time to time.

I feel confident, Your Honour, that it will not be very long until we are welcoming the British West Indies as another fellow nation of the commonwealth and then probably Malaya and also Nigeria.

This is a trend, and probably one of the most important trends of our time, and I believe that we are very privileged to be associated with the United Kingdom and the other nations of the commonwealth in the taking of those progressive steps. I am very happy to join with the Prime Minister in his welcome to this new sister nation.

**Mr. Alistair Stewart (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, we in the C.C.F. rejoice with the people of Ghana in their independence and we are happy that they have decided to stay within the community of the commonwealth.

In the last day or so history has been made in that part of Africa which was known as the Gold Coast, and the effect of that history is going to spread very much farther than perhaps some of us may think. What we are seeing is another nail in the coffin of colonialism. But a short while ago the people of Ghana were a subject people; they were colonials. Now they are free and independent and there is no more potent argument against the totalitarians than this fact, an argument far greater than all the pacts and promises which have been made since the war ended. We are happy to see that the present government of the United Kingdom is carrying on the same sort of policy initiated by Mr. Attlee and his colleagues when they assumed power in 1945.

There is no question but that the difficulties which will face this new country are great. However the Prime Minister of Ghana may believe that the omens are propitious. He finds himself in distinguished company. He has received an accolade. Hands have been laid upon him in more senses than one. He has been imprisoned and accused of sedition and he joins other esteemed members of the commonwealth in that position. We have one whom we honoured in this house not long ago. I refer to Mr. Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, who also found himself in prison for sedition. To come nearer home there was of course the founder and first leader of this

[Mr. Green.]

party, Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, who found himself imprisoned for the same reason because he had the temerity to quote from Holy Writ. Then there were friends of mine in Winnipeg who were thrown into prison because they had a rather fierce belief that in a free society men had certain inalienable rights. Fortunately while they were in prison they were elected to the legislature and one can only congratulate the percipience of their constituents. And so perhaps Dr. Nkrumah will find himself, as I said, in good company.

We wish him well and we hope that the people of Ghana as time goes on will see the fulfilment of their aspirations and we most sincerely hope that as they journey down the years they will have as their constant companions freedom and justice.

**Mr. E. G. Hansell (MacLeod):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is much that we can add to what has already been said. This group joins with the others in welcoming this new nation into the commonwealth as an independent nation and we trust that the relationship between all nations of the commonwealth will continue to be compatible and happy and that all nations will co-operate one with another in bringing about an even stronger commonwealth of the British peoples.

**Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might have the permission of the house to have appended as an appendix to *Hansard* of today a copy of the letter I asked the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys to hand to the Prime Minister of Ghana expressing the congratulations of the government on their attaining independence and becoming a member of the commonwealth.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

(For text of letter referred to above, see appendix, page 1956.)

**Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East):** And may I move as a suggestion, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra (Mr. Green), that you, Mr. Speaker, instruct the Clerk of the house to send a copy of the transcript of the proceedings of today to the Prime Minister of Ghana.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Prime Minister has moved, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra, that the Clerk be instructed—

**Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East):**—to forward to the Prime Minister of Ghana an official copy of the official report of this day's sittings.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the Prime Minister does not mind, I shall not delegate to the Clerk