

seeing that our production is made as great as possible, that we do not want to spend time unnecessarily in Ottawa, and we should be only too anxious to get through our business as quickly as possible.

Hon. sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Honourable gentlemen, may I be permitted, in the first place, to thank my honourable friend the leader of the opposite side of the House (Hon. Mr. Bostock) for the personal references which he has made to myself in connection with the new department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, which is now in course of organization. My honourable friend spoke in most complimentary terms, which I appreciate very much. Only my modesty prevents me from properly answering his remarks concerning my handling of the public business. I did expect my honourable friend to speak somewhat consolingly and sympathetically in regard to my having assumed new responsibilities; but, instead of that, he spoke cheerfully and felicitatingly upon the additional burdens which have been placed upon my shoulders. Some time ago I arrogated to myself the credit of doing the work of a grown man in Ottawa, particularly since war broke out; and I was therefore rather surprised when the Prime Minister intimated to me that he thought I should take further burdens and cultivate new fields of responsibility. Notwithstanding that, I find my honourable friend, whom I always regarded as being sympathetic towards me, not sympathizing with me, but rather complimenting me upon having assumed those responsibilities.

I join with my honourable friend the leader of the Opposition in extending my congratulations to the mover and seconder of the reply to the Speech from the Throne. I desire to congratulate them upon their recent entry into this Chamber and on the able and satisfactory manner in which they have discharged the duty assigned to them in moving and seconding the resolution now before the House. They thus give evidence of the value they will be in the deliberations of this Chamber, a Chamber which will furnish them a field for public service that I am satisfied will be gratifying to themselves.

I was very much pleased at the felicitous remarks made by my honourable friend from the Gulf (Hon. Mr. L'Espérance), who moved the reply to the Speech from the Throne. Touching the question of using both languages in this Chamber and the hope he expressed that in time we should

all be expert in both tongues, he certainly had the advantage of the English members in the remarks which he so aptly made. I at once made overtures to my honourable friend from Stadacona (Hon. Mr. Landry), who sits beside me, and who is one of the most advanced and militant exponents of the dual language, that if he would undertake to procure me a speaking knowledge of the French language I would be very pleased to use it. Having made these overtures, I trust my honourable friend will not reproach me further, and will consider that the responsibility is his to see that I acquire such knowledge as will permit me to meet his expectations.

Before the prorogation of the last session of Parliament took place, the Prime Minister had publicly declared that there would be an early reorganization of the Government, and that, in view of the serious conditions with which we had to deal concerning the war, a reorganization, in deference to both public sentiment and national requirement, would be carried out upon a union basis in which the two great political parties in Canada would be equally represented. This promise has been practically fulfilled. It is regrettable that the first proposals of the Prime Minister made to the leader of the Opposition, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, were not accepted by the leader of the Liberal party, for reasons which he specifically stated, but which I think it might be said did not appeal to the people of Canada. It therefore became desirable that those negotiations should be carried on through other channels within the Liberal party. These latter efforts were productive of satisfactory results, and it would be difficult to controvert the assertion that the reorganized Government is representative of the two great parties in Canada.

Upon this reorganization having taken place, Parliament was dissolved. The people of Canada were asked to express their confidence in the Government so reorganized, with the result that it was sustained and given a support which is represented in the Parliament of to-day, and which in numerical strength has exceeded the most sanguine expectations. It may therefore be said with confidence that the Government has an overwhelmingly-expressed declaration by the people of Canada to pursue the policy which has been adopted since the war began, and which will be continued until the Allies bring this war to a successful conclusion.

It is scarcely necessary, at this point of time in the crisis through which Canada and