

The Address—Mr. Ilesley

Hon. CHARLES DUNNING (Minister of Railways): I think my hon. friend might give me notice of that question in order that I might give it some consideration before answering.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. ILSLEY AND
SECONDED BY MR. BEAUBIEN

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. J. L. ILSLEY (Hants-Kings) moved:

That an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, offering the humble thanks of this house to His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both houses of parliament.

He said: In rising to move the address I wish first of all, not only in deference to custom but in all sincerity, to express my gratitude to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and his colleagues for the compliment which they have so very kindly paid my constituency in asking me to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I have the honour to represent the two counties of Hants and Kings in the province of Nova Scotia, counties which include within their borders the greater part of the orchards of the Annapolis valley, the fertile dyke lands of Cornwallis and Horton reclaimed by the Acadians from the sea nearly three centuries ago, and many spots which are sacred to lovers of history, including the town of Windsor, built at the meeting of the waters, and the beautiful land of Evangeline, with its haunting memories of the past.

My constituents are for the most part farmers, typical Nova Scotians, proud of their counties and of that province which was referred to by the writer of a recent book on the province of Nova Scotia as the "sea beaten, mistmantled, valley cloven, many watered, green garmented province of Canada which fronts the Atlantic and the rising sun."

One of my duties in moving this address is to express the gratification which we in the province of Nova Scotia, in common with those in other parts of Canada, feel at the rapid acceleration which has taken place in the material progress of Canada during the past year. Canada is prospering; we no longer talk of being on the eve of prosperity; we are enjoying prosperity. That prosperity has been briefly mentioned in the speech from the throne, and is more fully dealt with in the reports or addresses which have been presented by the presidents and general

[Mr. Tolmie.]

managers of the great Canadian banks to their shareholders during the last few weeks. These addresses tell the story of a greater progress than has ever before been experienced in the history of Canada, a greater prosperity than Canada has ever enjoyed.

The year 1927 saw the greatest building program since pre-war days, resulting in the erection of houses, factories and industrial and power plants in all parts of the Dominion. Last year also saw greater activity and interest in mining than at any previous time in the history of Canada. Immigration during the past year has greatly increased, particularly immigration of British settlers and those of the best European stocks, while on the contrary, emigration which has in past years presented a problem of importance has decreased. National taxation has been reduced from time to time during the past few years, but while that reduction has been effected the national debt has been very greatly and spectacularly reduced as well. During the past year there were substantial and in many cases unexpected increases in savings bank deposits, in the amount of money invested in life insurance, in trade with foreign countries, in the value of Canadian securities, in the earnings on Canadian industrial stocks, in the value of Canadian field crops, in car loadings and in the gross revenue of the Canadian National Railways. At the same time, unemployment was considerably lessened and the demand for labour has increased. Indeed, the condition of the country has been so satisfactory, from the standpoint of material progress and prosperity, that an hon. member of this house, an acknowledged authority, writing in the *Montreal Gazette's* Commercial and Financial Review for the year 1927, on January 7 of this year, had these striking words to say:

Canada has never before enjoyed a year of so general progress and prosperity as that of 1927. Production, distribution, manufacturing, transportation and foreign commerce exceeded all previous records, and while there was a slowing down here and there in the last quarter of the year, the relapse was slight and not such as to excite apprehension. Labour was fully employed at wages higher, relatively to the peak, than the cost of commodities, giving to artisans and mechanics a substantial surplus of earnings to be employed either in bank deposits, investments, or a higher standard of living.

This is very gratifying to all Canadians, and we consider it all the more remarkable when we recall that less than two and a half years ago a large part of the population of every province of Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, was predicting financial ruin