

to the people of Canada, and with that remark I am wholly in agreement. No one coming as I do from the head of the lakes, for many years the spout of the funnel through which passes the wheat of western Canada, can fail to grasp the importance to this dominion of the wheat-growing industry of the west.

Perhaps I shall be forgiven if I express now, in this my first set speech since my return to the house, something in the way of appreciation of the honour that has been conferred upon me in being chosen as leader of one of the two great parties that have governed this country for the last seventy years or more. In spite of all the criticism that has been heaped upon these two parties, I believe that they have done fairly well in the government of Canada throughout these years. I would express my appreciation of the honour that has come to me in being made the representative of the constituency of London. Many able and outstanding men have represented that constituency, and it is a matter for pride that I should now be its representative. I highly appreciate the honour of representing that fine old city.

I have already expressed publicly, and I should like to do so again in a word, my appreciation of the courtesy shown by the Liberal party in refraining from opposing me in the by-election. After all, it is only in keeping with the traditions of our parliamentary life. If you will go back over the years you will find that the same course was followed by the Conservatives in 1919 when the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) ran in Prince Edward Island. The same courtesy was extended by the Liberal party to my friend Arthur Meighen when he ran in Grenville-Dundas in 1922. May I therefore express again my deep appreciation of the courtesies shown me by the Liberals on the occasion of the by-election.

I realize sincerely the duties and responsibilities that devolve upon me as leader of one of the parties in Canada; yet, having been chosen by a great convention, I feel that no more can be expected of me than that I should do my best. For that convention did display a feeling of unanimity and progress, and there was on its part a realization of the changing times in the progressive attitude which it took on a great many questions. After all, we are living in a time when men of all religious and political beliefs must see that in a changing era all the world must continue to change. I may fittingly conclude these observations by thanking both the public and the press of the country for the kindly way in which they

[Mr. Manion.]

have received my first efforts since my election in July to the leadership of the National Conservative party.

And now I should like to deal with the speech from the throne. I have read it carefully two or three times, and whatever else we can say about it, we must admit at once, I think, that it is preeminent at least in regard to quantity. I have the word of one very industrious member behind me, who has measured the space in Hansard taken up by the speech from the throne in the past twenty-three years, that no speech from the throne has occupied quite so much space as the one with which we are now favoured. Whatever criticisms I may have to make of this document, therefore, the right hon. gentleman can rest assured that, in that one respect at any rate, it is preeminent.

May I deal briefly with the different paragraphs of the speech. With the first, announcing that Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth have graciously decided to visit Canada, and that that announcement has been received with rejoicing throughout the dominion, I think that not only all hon. members in this house but the people in all parts of Canada will fully agree. Their majesties, as one of the previous speakers properly observed, are as much the king and queen of Canada as they are the king and queen of Britain or of any other part of the empire. When we look at the romantic picture of the young man and the young woman who have assumed the very onerous duties of their office, when we realize that at the coronation not so very long ago they dedicated themselves to the service of the empire, and that they have since honoured that pledge as well as did his majesty's father King George V and his mother, Queen Mary, we cannot help feeling the greatest admiration and the sincerest affection for their majesties. I believe, sir, that is the feeling of everyone in this country. I do not believe there are any sections or groups that are not entirely loyal to the king and the empire, although there may be some differences of opinion here and there as to how that loyalty should be shown.

Another attribute of the present king and queen, and this applies equally to King George V and Queen Mary—I have mentioned it on other occasions, in Canadian Club addresses and so on—is that they have given throughout their lives such a splendid example of fine home life. After all, the home is the cornerstone of the nation; and for that as well as for many other things I think we owe a debt of gratitude both to the former and to the present king and queen. I can add