

of Alberta, gave you, last year, a detailed account of the riches of that province. It is sufficient for me to recall to your mind what he said about our coal mines, perhaps the greatest in the world, our immense asphalt deposits, our oil wells, natural gas and forest reserves, and all the possibilities of developing this natural wealth to make of our province one of the most important in the Dominion. I adopt his words and ask you to give to this measure, when it is presented, the most sympathetic and most careful consideration.

I must not resume my seat without congratulating most heartily the honourable Senator who has so eloquently moved the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I have much pleasure in seconding his motion.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: Honourable gentlemen, it is in order, I think, that on behalf of this side of the House I should extend our good wishes and congratulations to the honourable Senators who have become members of this House this Session. They constitute a great importation of new and good blood, and when I look at them I am quite satisfied that this House shows no sign of decline, but, on the contrary, exhibits every evidence of renewed strength and vigour, not only for the discharge of the ordinary duties of the House but of the work of this country. We on this side of the House welcome those gentlemen.

It is also my pleasing duty to congratulate the mover (Hon. Mr. Lewis) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Lessard) upon the speeches that they have just delivered to us; but I must say that the speech of the mover of the Address was much plainer to me than the speech delivered by the gentleman who seconded it. I have no doubt however that in due time I shall be able to abstract from the latter a good deal of the wisdom it contains. I am not going to criticize anything that the honourable gentlemen have said, and in a moment I will explain why.

Passing to the Speech proper, there is one matter which it contains that concerns us all, and on which we can all speak, no matter on which side of the House we may sit. His Majesty the King has suffered lately a great bereavement in the loss of his mother. For years she was an honoured Princess in England, and then a Royal Queen, beloved and respected not only by British citizens at home but by people in all parts of the Empire—I might almost say in all parts of the world. It is beyond controversy that she was a good woman, which, perhaps is a greater title than any of the others I have mentioned, and I think it is fitting that we should all join

in expressing our sincere sorrow and in extending our sympathy to His Majesty the King in his great loss.

Another matter to which I would refer is the fact that we have in our midst a member of this House who has been the subject of a great and unique honour during the past year. I wish for myself to extend to the Leader of the Government in this House my unalloyed and heartfelt congratulations upon the great honour that has been conferred on him by the offer of the presidency of the Assembly of the League of Nations, an office which he has, I think wisely, accepted, and the duties of which I have no doubt he will discharge capably. There are gentlemen in this House who understand the machinery and the mechanism of the constitution of the League of Nations better than I do, although I think that I have a general knowledge of it and an appreciation of the greatness of that institution and of what it means to be made the president. I have no hesitation at all in saying that the honour so conferred on the Leader of this House is one in which this House shares. I think we can truly say that the House is honoured by the choice of the Leader of the Government here for that high position. It is an honour to my honourable friend's native province, it is an honour to the Dominion of Canada, and I have no doubt that he will long live to occupy an important position and to play an important part, as he already has done, in the workings of the League of Nations, whether as president or in some other capacity. I extend to him what I know to be the unfeigned feeling of satisfaction of this side of the House.

Leaving this subject and passing to the Speech proper, there are one or two things to be said. In the other House the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne is a critical thing, it is one of those things upon which governments come and governments go. While it is not altogether correct to say that the adoption of the Speech from the Throne by this House is a formal thing, it is not of the same importance as its adoption by the other House. The Speech from the Throne is the method by which we receive the message from His Excellency, for which we loyally return our thanks; and it is a well-known fact that if we were to vote down the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, our action would not affect the government of the day in the least, and that it would continue in office as if we had passed no such motion.

A peculiar situation exists in the other branch of Parliament, and I think my hon-