

after all, there is only one race in Canada—the Canadian race. We are all Canadians, irrespective of our national origin. No matter where we live in this large nation, we all have the same problems, hopes and ambitions, and may we always show our pride in being just Canadian.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

(Translation):

Hon. Léon Méthot: Honourable senators, as a newcomer to the Senate and in order to make myself better known, I feel bound to remind you that I represent the city of Three Rivers, my native town, and the adjoining ridings of St. Maurice and Champlain.

Three Rivers, everyone in this chamber may not be aware, has its St. Maurice and its Maurice. The St. Maurice, this magnificent river which falls tumultuously over the Shawinigan Falls,—after which my division is named,—produces the power for the largest paper mills in the world, as the Consolidated Paper, the Canadian International Paper and the St. Lawrence Paper are all located in Three Rivers. It also supplies the power for one of Canada's largest cotton companies, the Wabasso Company, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, this year, and for many other industries which are too numerous to be listed here. I would, however, like to mention the Canadian Westinghouse Company, which settled in our locality some months ago, barely two years ago, I believe, and which has already doubled the number of its employees.

The St. Maurice supplies power not only to the city of Three Rivers and to the whole surrounding district, but also to nearly all the province of Quebec. Indeed, it is the envy of several of our sister provinces which are not endowed to the same extent with such a precious resource.

Maurice, on the other hand, is the power which, through his courage and hard work, has already for many years managed to guide the province of Quebec in the tremendous strides it has made toward its economic development.

Maurice and the St. Maurice also have many other attributes and qualities of which the people of Quebec are aware. But the main qualification of the two is that they have both succeeded in bringing light not only to the larger centers but even to the remotest rural parishes, to such an extent that our farmers and our farmers' sons are now in a position to see the true road, to find the right direction, and they proved it not so long ago.

Three Rivers, which had been silent in this chamber since the death of the Honourable Charles Bourgeois in 1940, may now, through

my feeble voice, make itself heard, thanks to the trust that the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker, our Prime Minister, has placed in me.

Honourable senators, without further preamble, I will take on the role which was entrusted to me and which, I shall not attempt to hide from you, moves me deeply.

May I first congratulate the honourable senator from Hastings-Frontenac (Hon. Mr. White) upon the splendid summary he has given us of the Speech from the Throne.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Méthot: Clearly and eloquently, he explained to us the subject-matter of the Speech from the Throne which touches on the most important aspects of our national position and even of the international situation.

The voters of the riding which had chosen him to speak on their behalf in the House of Commons will immediately realize that he will now play just as effective a part for the welfare of their district and of Canada as a whole.

I should also like to take this occasion, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate you most heartily upon your appointment to the high and honourable position you occupy and which, during the impressive and important events which have just taken place, you have filled with such distinction.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Méthot: I have, for quite some time, been in a position to appreciate your talents, but I think you are unaware of a detail which I will take the liberty of revealing to this chamber.

At the very beginning of my legal studies in Three Rivers, one of the judges of our district, Hon. F. X. Drouin, did me the great honour of inviting me to become his private secretary. For two years, I had the advantage of knowing him intimately, I benefited from his advice and lessons, and I was given the opportunity of appreciating his deep knowledge and his nobility of character. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I was not surprised last week to see his grandson represent us before the Queen with such dignity.

May I now express to the Prime Minister my deepest gratitude for having invited me to sit in this house and to contribute as best I can to the work which he proposes to accomplish.