

*The Address—Mr. Cauchon*

strong nationalities in this land of ours must not be considered as mere chance, as the result of a mysterious fate.

In the face of this outstanding fact, we must acknowledge the right of he who looks after the destiny of men as well as of peoples. We must therefore fully realize and recognize that this fact is an important one, superior to many contingencies, from which the most beneficial results can be drawn.

The pooling of the various assets peculiar to each of the main races of this country, good will and mutual co-operation, national unity, finally, are apt indeed to bring extremely beneficial results to our country.

In accepting an office as important as his, at the head of the government, the Prime Minister knocked down a host of racial prejudices that threatened to impede our internal economy; he gave a magnificent example of solidarity and became the link between English-speaking and French-speaking citizens, in order that our great nation may unfalteringly achieve her glorious destiny.

The trip that our Prime Minister saw fit to undertake in western Canada last August, so as to visit Ukrainians living in that part of the country, is undeniable proof of his zealous efforts to co-ordinate the various elements that make up our population.

He was anxious to visit them in order to convince them that they are welcome in their new homeland. He has also paid a visit to the Ile aux Coudres last summer, and, at the same time, to the constituency of Charlevoix where no prime minister had been until then.

These attentions cannot be overlooked for they constitute a most eloquent proof of the interest he takes in every part of this country.

We therefore owe the Right Hon. Prime Minister an undying debt of gratitude. At the risk of wounding his modesty we can say with legitimate pride that the people are most assuredly entitled to salute him as a statesman whose actions have commanded the attention of all the free world.

He is of the strain of real leaders of men. It is with such sure guides that they are led along the road to tolerance and team-work.

The nomination of the Right Hon. Prime Minister was hailed enthusiastically by the two great racial groups in this country. His worth was unanimously recognized by all citizens, mindful of the urgency of their duties and common task.

[Mr. Cauchon.]

Because of his overwhelming power of persuasion, the elite of this country soon realized the necessity of uniting, without distinction of racial origins.

His remarkable personality was welcomed by the English elements, while the French group recognized the obvious possibility of an understanding.

Thus came into being a precious association of forces, blooming forth amidst order and harmony. That is why we are able to make full use of all our natural and ethnical resources and to solve, in full agreement with one another, problems relating to the social welfare, the health and security of all classes of our society.

If the achievements of the Right Hon. Prime Minister were wise and truly effective, the country as a whole was pleased to perceive the wonderful spirit of co-operation and understanding which enabled all his colleagues in the cabinet to unite their activities with his own and to direct all their efforts towards a single ideal.

We, members of this house, are in a good position to see the hon. members of the cabinet perform their delicate duties in this country, or even abroad when they are called upon to represent us. It is worthy of note that on every occasion they never fail to increase the prestige of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I am not wrong in stating that we all wish for the success of the efforts of the United Nations and the North Atlantic alliance towards the prevention of a world war and the establishment of a lasting peace.

(Text):

Moreover, if I may be permitted to say a few words in English, I cannot but draw the attention of the house to the marked progress made towards achieving unity amongst Canadians.

Perhaps, the most significant step was taken when the Speaker of this house went to Quebec to study at Laval university, to perfect himself in the French language. There he distinguished himself as a student. In fact, he received a medal.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues from Quebec and myself, I wish to convey to you our most sincere congratulations.