

Their Excellencies, when touring Canada, visited the various service hospitals, the war plants, and the many agencies of the Red Cross. Their visits to the hospitals brought comfort and courage to those who, at great personal sacrifice, had served at the front. His Excellency, who had a distinguished career in the Imperial Army, both in war and in peace, took a special interest in our armed forces, and all ranks keenly looked forward to his visits.

May I be permitted to make a personal reference to Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice? She was indefatigable in her attention to the Red Cross hospitals and other agencies. Her visits were greatly appreciated and did much to sustain the morale of our people.

Today parliament is expressing to Their Excellencies, who are about to leave Canada, its appreciation of and gratitude for the service they have rendered and their devotion to duty during their period of office. I am certain that they will carry with them also the appreciation and gratitude of the Canadian people.

We contemplate the departure of Their Excellencies with a tinge of sadness, but we know they will have the satisfaction of carrying with them the best wishes of the Canadian people. We trust that they may have a pleasant and safe return to England, and we hope that they may long be spared to continue in the service of our King. We are sure that when His Excellency is reporting to His Majesty he will convey to him our continued loyalty and devotion to the Crown, and will assure him that all Canadians rejoice in the thought that Canada will ever remain the senior dominion in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Hon. VINCENT DUPUIS (Translation): Honourable senators, the term of office of His Excellency the Governor General, the Earl of Athlone, is about to expire.

Parliament deems it proper to give official recognition to that event, and the government's representative in this house has requested me to say a few words as a Canadian of French descent.

May I say to His Excellency and to Her Royal Highness Princess Alice how much we regret their departure. I wish to express in the most sincere terms our feelings of deep gratitude and our heartfelt appreciation for the memorable part His Excellency has played with so much nobleness and distinction as the representative of His Majesty the King in Canada.

His term of office among us covers one of the most troubled periods in world history.

During those years of anguish which the recent conflict brought us, our Governor General, assisted by his royal spouse, was not sparing of his time, nor was he free from fatigue or worry. His endeavours have always been great. He has gone wherever he could encourage us through his words and example. He has ever been for us a living symbol of gallantry and indomitable courage. His high personality has been for us a stimulant in our determination to serve our country.

Now that our people and our victorious armies have acquired a world-wide reputation, we take pleasure in acknowledging the fact that we are indebted to him for a considerable part of our success.

In the speech from the throne which he was pleased to read yesterday, he said that Her Royal Highness Princess Alice and he were proud of the privilege they had of sharing our joys and our trials, and that they will ever keep a deep affection for us. Of that we are convinced.

In turn, we want them to know that their sojourn among us has left such a deep impression in our hearts that we consider them as fellow-Canadians. That is why we should be very proud if they were willing to accept from us the title of Canadian citizens.

Then, on his return, when our Governor General reaches the throne to make a report on his mandate, we should, I think, be more assured of the fullness of our equality of status as a sovereign nation if he were to speak to His Majesty the King as a Canadian citizen, on behalf of the loyal subjects of his Canadian kingdom. In conclusion, I may say that it would be a comfort to us if he kindly delivered the following message from us: We wish to join Your Majesty, our noble sovereign, and all believers throughout the world, in a common spirit with all those who believe in the primacy of spiritual values, to beseech the God of our fathers, source of all good, to come to our help; may His infinite mercy forgive the transgressions of repentant souls; may a beam of heavenly light shine on erring souls; may the vivifying heat of divine charity warm callous hearts; may true peace reign at last among individuals and among all the peoples of the earth.

Hon. A. J. LEGER (Translation): Honourable colleagues, I am delighted to join the honourable senators who have just spoken in conveying, on behalf of those I represent, a modest, but heartfelt tribute of admiration and gratitude to the distinguished Governor who is about to leave our shores.

Even though, since the outset of Confederation, Canada has always been fortunate in the choice of the incumbents designated by