

initiated not by the present government of that province but by its predecessor. I should have pointed out this most important fact, that of the \$855,000 per month and the \$29,000 per month seventy-five per cent comes from the federal treasury.

That is admitted, and I conclude with this: We all know the history of old age pensions as introduced in this house in 1926. We know that the two members from Winnipeg made them possible, in those days of bargaining between the Liberal party, the Progressive party and the other parties. We all know that at that time fifty per cent of the cost was paid by the federal government. It is my opinion, though I may be wrong, that the Liberal party gave those old age pensions to this country very reluctantly. Then, sir, in 1930 or 1931, after the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett came to power, the share of the dominion government was increased from fifty per cent to seventy-five per cent.

Mr. McDONALD (Pontiac): How much did he promise the electorate?

Mr. WERMENLINGER: It was nothing compared with the promises of 1935. Between 1927 and 1935 the province of Quebec was paying, through imposts, through taxes, through stamps, through \$8 per gallon on alcohol, through taxes on cigarettes and everything that could be produced, for the old age pensions of the other eight provinces. The government of Quebec, then led by Premier Taschereau, always turned a deaf ear to the demands of Mr. Duplessis, then in opposition, who wanted old age pensions in that province. That question was not even an issue in the election of 1935; but after the inquiry by the public accounts committee in Quebec an S.O.S. call was sent out by Mr. Taschereau because the ship was being wrecked. That was when he put old age pensions on the program. So, Mr. Speaker, the credit should go to the present premier of Quebec.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. R. E. FINN (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I am rather tired to-night, having just returned from the city of Halifax, so that if I am not as bright or as dull as I usually am I hope the proper allowances will be made. It is a pleasure to speak on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I believe there never was a time in the history of Canada when the eyes of the world have been more turned toward the north American continent,

and more particularly toward this great area, so large in extent but so thinly populated. As we all know our population is only about eleven million people.

To-night I have memories both pleasant and sad. I have memories of those who during the last session of parliament occupied seats in this chamber but who, during the recess, have been called to that bourne from which no traveller returns. I am sure every hon. member, including the ladies holding seats in the chamber, must mourn with the relatives and friends of those who have departed and who have won an eternal crown.

To hon. members on this side of the house and to those members of our group who, because of our numbers, have to sit opposite, I wish to say that we are a unit in support of the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mackenzie King) who, in his duties, has been most assiduous and unselfish, who has not thought of himself for a single moment or of the criticisms which have been leveled against him. Necessarily, with one as sensitive as he is, it hurts the heart, but it does not dull the mind or shade the intellect. Therefore, with that fine manhood and leadership he possesses in such abundance, he is to-day attempting to give the best form of government it is possible to give.

We are all human; we all err. On some matters respecting advancements which have been made I may not see eye to eye with some others; however, that may be due to the fact that there are elements or considerations over which the government cannot have control. There may be some elements in connection with government which are not discussed in the house, but which nevertheless exist. Perhaps it is best that they remain unknown to hon. members.

First of all may I congratulate the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Matthews) who comes as a new member from western Canada, and who showed a keen vision, great clarity of mind and a vocabulary equal to the task of expressing so truly and so well the feelings of his constituency as well as his personal feelings toward hon. members of the house and more particularly toward the Prime Minister and the members of his government. I should like, too, to congratulate the hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Chevrier), the bright and valiant young man who seconded the address. I was moved the other day when I heard the suggestion that if an hon. member is to remain in the house—and that must be doubtful, even for me—he should study both languages, French and English, so that in terms of either language we may be able to converse privately and to understand each others mentality much better.