

functions of Government leader in the Senate, is obliged to transfer the burden to younger shoulders. My relations with the honourable senator extend back nearly twenty years, to the time when he was leader of the Conservative party in Saskatchewan. In those days I appreciated, as I do to-day, his upright character, his ability as a learned and experienced legislator, and his moderation and broad-mindedness in political affairs. I know that I am speaking on your behalf as well as for myself in voicing the hope that he may be speedily restored to health.

The same wish is extended to the honourable member of this Chamber who until recently had charge of the arduous work of the Department of Labour (Hon. Mr. Robertson). His unbounded devotion to duty almost ruined his health, but we are glad to see him with us again, and to note that his condition is improving and we are to have the benefit of his wise counsel.

May I be permitted to greet the honourable senators who have been sworn in during the last few days, and especially the new representative of the Government in this Chamber (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen). His appointment does honour to the Government, to the entire country and to this Chamber, which will profit by his wide and profound knowledge, splendid statesmanship and great talent.

Honourable senators, the Speech from the Throne is clear and concise. Most of the matters, past and future, alluded to in the Speech have been ably dealt with by the mover of the present motion, and it is unnecessary for me to repeat what has been said.

The Governor General's speech is encouraging in these dark days through which the whole world is passing, for it gives us the assurance that Canada is in a position of financial stability which is the envy of more densely populated countries considered richer than ours. This assurance is confirmed by the success of the loans recently floated in Canada and by the reports of our banks and life insurance companies.

It is true that the reports of our railways are less reassuring; but the railway problem is nearing a solution, and we may await with confidence the report of the commission that has been enquiring into this subject.

Much has been said, and much written, about the distress of our Western Provinces, so severely tried by the crop failures of the last three years. In some places this distress is real, but the steps taken by the Government have succeeded not only in alleviating misery,

but also in restoring to our people the confidence necessary for the continuance of their work.

Moreover, it is but fitting that praise should be given to the spirit of solidarity shown by the provinces that have had more favourable crops in the last three years. Everywhere there has been a splendid response to the appeals for help, and once more the great generosity of the Canadian people has been amply demonstrated.

But the West will survive, for, though it has been hurt, its injuries are not mortal. Toil, economy and perseverance will triumph over adversity. As the Government is providing the farmers of the Prairies with sustenance, and with seed grain, etc., our fields will, with the help of Providence, become again, as in the past, the granary of the Empire and the source of great and increasing revenue.

The forthcoming Imperial Conference, which will take place here in July next, will give definite assurance of new outlets for our products and establish more favourable trade relations for all the countries of the Empire, and Canada in particular.

Already we can foresee that soon our splendid country will enter once more upon days of prosperity and progress. Thanks to the wisdom of the Government, the foresight shown in its measures, and the firmness of its decisions, we have placed our trade balance on the credit side. Let us have confidence in the future. The present century, as predicted by one of our great Prime Ministers, belongs to Canada.

Just one word on the subject of our representatives at the meeting of the League of Nations in Geneva. Though Canada is a young nation, she already, in the past, has spoken with authority at that assembly for the promotion of world peace. We are sure that our present representatives will prove to be worthy successors of those who have previously done us honour amongst the wise men of the world. Their mission is a noble work. Let us pray that it may succeed.

(Text) Honourable members of the Senate, I should not like to conclude my first address in this House without saying a few words to those of you who may not understand French. I wish to thank them for the kind and courteous attention they have given me, even if they were not able to follow everything I said. Some twenty years ago, during my first political campaign in Saskatchewan, I had to make what I would call my maiden English speech. After the meeting one of my friends came to me and made the remark that I was no artist in speaking English. It was true