

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable members, I rise with real pleasure to second the resolution so happily phrased, and so gracefully supported by the honourable leader of the Senate. Little can usefully be added to expressions which have come from the lips of leaders of the other House, now supplemented by the leader of our own, in support of the motion to which it is a proud privilege for us one and all to give our assent. I do not think the Prime Minister has ever delivered a more impressive, more chastely expressed or more thoroughly appropriate speech than the one he made in support of this resolution in the other Chamber.

We all have in mind, inevitably, the unfortunate circumstances which brought about finally the abdication of His late Majesty King Edward VIII and the succession to the Throne of his brother, the Duke of York, now King George VI. It does not become us, in my judgment, to comment unnecessarily, and certainly not to comment critically, upon those events which commanded the attention of the universe, and led to the fall of one king and the succession of another in the greatest Empire the world has seen. We can only look back upon those events with regret that they did occur, and with pride that the nation was so well guided through them. We can now think of our late Monarch with feelings of sympathy, indeed of affection. We make no criticism. We are proud, though, that within the circle of his family a successor has come forward in whom there is unanimous confidence that he will assume the high role which devolves upon him and discharge its onerous duties as have others of his line in years lately gone by.

The honourable leader of the Government has called aptly to our attention qualities which distinguish King George VI, qualities which we like to see in Britain's Monarch—in our Monarch—because we know they conform to that great constitutional system under which we live, because we feel they are essential to the proper working of that system, and because particularly they were possessed by his father, of happy memory. We feel the more reliance because we are assured—and those of us who have had the honour of a brief acquaintance can add to the assurance—that he is indeed the successor of his father in more than a legal sense; he is the heir to his talents, to his industry, and to his virtues.

With real earnestness and high hope I second the resolution.

The motion was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved, seconded by Right Hon. Mr. Meighen:

That the Hon. the Speaker do sign the said Address to His Most Excellent Majesty the King on behalf of the Senate.

The motion was agreed to.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. ADRIAN K. HUGESSEN rose to move that an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious Speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament.

He said: Honourable senators, in rising to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, may I ask for your kindly indulgence to the natural embarrassment of the most recently appointed member of this distinguished body in addressing it for the first time? A new member of this House who feels greatly, and undeservedly, honoured by admission to its ranks, is naturally enough largely unacquainted with its functions and attributes and with what is expected of him. To such a one it is a great help to find some guide to the place that this assembly is designed to occupy in the political life of the country. That guide I have been fortunate enough to obtain by a careful perusal of the very eloquent speech delivered last month to the Canadian Club of Montreal by the right honourable gentleman who leads on the other side of the House (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen).

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: As the representative of the electoral district of Inkerman, I am one of the representatives here of the Protestant English-speaking minority in the province of Quebec, and as such I was particularly interested in one of the remarks which my right honourable friend made, as reported in the Montreal Gazette the following day. He said:

It is clear that there devolves upon the Upper House the duty of having special and peculiar regard to minority and sectional rights in Canada, to see that the majority exercising its full force in the representative Chamber where population controls is not permitted to ride over the proper rights and privileges of minorities.