

*The Address—Mr. Mackenzie King*

erstwhile Liberal. He shakes his head. Well, he may wish to forget the fact; he has been in bad company for some time. However, for a long while he was looked upon as a Liberal. May I, in congratulating him as well as my hon. friend the leader of the opposition, say to both of them in all sincerity that I hope they may be continued in the high office of opposition leaders with ever increasing satisfaction to themselves and others as long as they live.

Having extended congratulations to my hon. friends opposite, I join with the leader of the opposition in extending very hearty congratulations to the mover and seconder of the address. I am sure that we all felt very proud of the splendid manner in which the young hon. member for Prescott (Mr. Auger) spoke in the course of the debate this afternoon, and I think those of us who reside in Ottawa feel a particular pride in the knowledge that he is a graduate of the university of Ottawa. He is the youngest member of this parliament and, I believe, one of the youngest members who ever entered the House of Commons. I am sure when we realize that his college course was largely obtained unaided, through his own industry and effort, and that during it he carried off prizes and scholarships, we can say that he is an example and an inspiration to the young men of our Dominion. We may well hope that many more of his age will take a serious interest in the public affairs of their country and find places in increasing numbers in this House.

The hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. McPherson), who seconded the address, came to us with a reputation as an able debater, as one experienced in public affairs and well versed in public matters, particularly those pertaining to western Canada. He has sustained that high reputation to-day in an admirable manner, and after listening to him I think we all feel that our parliamentary force has been greatly strengthened by his presence here. May I congratulate him not only upon the speech he delivered this afternoon, but also upon the great victory which he obtained at the last election, and which, more than anything else, accounts for the change in the person of leader of the opposition in this House. I am not going to pronounce any valedictory upon the departed, because I am not at all sure that we may not see him back in this House again; for my part, I should not be surprised to see him once more at the head of his party. That, however, is a matter for my hon. friends opposite

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to decide; it is a family affair and I have no desire to intrude into their domestic concerns.

May I, Mr. Speaker, take advantage of the moment to express the pleasure I am sure it gives most of us to see so many of the members of the last parliament in attendance again. A few of our old members are missing, and I confess that I am very glad that one or two of them are not here. In large part, however, old members have been returned, and I think it is with a feeling of pride and satisfaction to all that we meet again in the numbers we do to resume our labours in a new parliament. On behalf of the government, and on behalf of the old members of the House, I extend to the new members a most cordial welcome. I am sure we all have reason to know that the ability and debating talent of this chamber have been greatly added in virtue of the new members who have come into our midst.

I should like to join with my hon. friend the leader of the opposition, and with the mover and seconder of the address, in expressing appreciation of and pride in the appointment of the new Governor General of Canada, and the pleasure it affords all to have with us at Rideau Hall at the present time Lord and Lady Willingdon. In the short time they have been in Canada they have captivated the hearts of our people wherever they have gone. As the leader of the opposition said this afternoon, very truly, I think, we in Canada have great reason to be proud of the long list of distinguished gentlemen who have filled the high position of the king's representative in this Dominion. I may say that without exception we have been fortunate indeed in those who have been selected as governors general of our Dominion. I believe that great as have been the qualities of those who have filled this high position, the present Governor General possesses attributes second to none of his predecessors. He has had the advantage of a parliamentary experience over a considerable period of time. He has been a representative of the people in parliament; he also represented as governor of Bombay and Madras over an equal period of time His Majesty the King. He has been on important diplomatic missions to other lands, and taken all together his experience is such as to qualify him in an exceptional way for the high position to which he has been called. It is a rather interesting coincidence that, as in the parliament before last, we begin with a new parliament, a new government, and a new Governor General.