

My hon. friend also very kindly made reference to the speeches delivered by the mover and the seconder of the address, my friends and colleagues in my party, the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Viau) and the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg (Mr. Winters). I should like to join my congratulations very warmly to those of the leader of the opposition. The mover and the seconder with the accustomed modesty of young and new members credited their selection as being a compliment to their constituencies. I may say I think the constituencies may feel complimented by the manner in which they were represented in the speeches which were made by their representatives in this house. The hon. members come not only from two of the very important but two of the historic regions of Canada. At the moment, time does not permit me to speak of St. Boniface and its relation to the development of the Canadian west, or of Queens-Lunenburg and its association with the development of the maritimes, and the place which each of those constituencies holds to-day in the industrial and commercial life of our country. But I should like to say that there were other reasons as well which caused my colleagues and myself to feel that we would wish to have these two members, in particular, address the house at the beginning of this debate. They are among the younger men who came into parliament for the first time after the last elections. I should think that for that reason alone we as their colleagues in this house have reason to be proud of the addition which has been made to the debating strength of the house by their presence here. But they are also veterans of the great war. May I say that naturally the people of Canada would wish to have as those first to participate in a great debate, members of parliament who have taken their part in the service of their country as members of the armed forces.

In recent years both of the hon. members have also taken an active part in the public service of Canada. In different ways they have been public servants holding trusted positions, and have filled them in a manner that was most creditable to themselves. These are but some of the reasons which caused me to extend the invitation which I did. May I repeat how pleased all their colleagues were at the manner in which they addressed the house. I think I may associate members of all parties in the congratulations which I now extend to them.

There was just one thing, perhaps, that I found a little embarrassing in their remarks; it was the extremely generous way in which

they referred to myself and my leadership of the party. I have no doubt that that will be offset before very long by something from the other side which may help to adjust the balance; but I should like to say that if I have been spared through many years to hold the position I have it is due above all else to those who I have had immediately around me as my colleagues in the cabinet and, other members in the House of Commons in the party to which I belong. In enunciating Liberal policies I have sought as best I could to give expression to what I believed to be the views of the Liberal party in Canada. Through the years that I have held my present position I have been extremely fortunate in having about me colleagues second to none any prime minister has ever had in his cabinet or as loyal followers in parliament.

I come now to my hon. friend's address of this afternoon. Here may I note at the outset what he has said, and rightly said, about what may be said in a debate on the speech from the throne. My hon. friend intimated that, after all, the debate on the speech from the throne is partly formal procedure for the purpose of opening parliament and therefore should be made brief in order that the house may get down to business—the business about which he said a good deal this afternoon—and not lose too much time. He did not set us the best example in the matter of shortening the debate. May I say that I am ready to join with him and the other leaders immediately in seeking to work out an agreement as to shortening the length of the present debate. I think it is desirable that the debate on the address should be brief; but may I point out that when it comes to making these arrangements it is not always as easy to bring about the result as it is to tell others what should be done. If there were only my hon. friend and myself, the two of us, or myself and any one of the other two leaders, we could I think come to an agreement; but where there are one, two or three leaders of the opposition, not to mention one or two others who feel they have a sort of right to lead as well, it is very difficult to get an agreement by which all parties will be bound. However, I do hope we may come to some agreement at once in regard to the length of this debate.

Then, with respect to the rules of the house, of which my hon. friend has spoken, may I say that the government intend to recommend the reappointment of the committee on the rules of the house. I hope and pray that the committee may get down to work immediately and that it may be able to present to parlia-