

*The Address—Mr. P. Gauthier*

seconded of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I am delighted to do so because these two gentlemen, younger members of the house, acquitted themselves like veterans.

Naturally, I am better acquainted with the riding represented by the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Dumas) since I toured it a few years ago. I notice that he devoted special attention to the mining problem.

The constituency of Portneuf and especially its population are concerned with mining matters because the county has very rich mineral deposits. In fact, one mine is already in operation and another soon will be. Moreover, I am sure others will be developed in the near future.

I therefore congratulate the two hon. members for a good job well done and I am certain that the house and their constituents are very grateful.

Mr. Speaker, last week we received the sad news of the death of Judge Lucien Cannon, of the superior court. Portneuf county, which he represented for a few months only, is especially saddened by his demise.

If the bench has lost an eminent jurist, the body politic cannot remain indifferent, since it too loses one of its most brilliant orators. In the course of its many sessions, the House of Commons of Canada was the scene of important discussions, famous in our parliamentary annals, to which Lucien Cannon, then member for Dorchester, brought many assets, his remarkable power of expression, and his exceptionally fine and powerful talent as a debater.

Those who have crossed swords with him know better than anybody else how keen was his blade, how quick his hand. His political battles in Dorchester and Portneuf have not been forgotten; they are still well remembered by those people who love good and brilliant speeches. They love fighters and Lucien Cannon had no peer on the hustings.

As for us, we had him in our midst for three months, during which time we were able to appreciate his broad mind, his heart ever open to all requests from his electors, his utter devotion to all those who had placed their trust in him. During those three months, Mr. Cannon worked methodically and devotedly for the welfare of his new constituents.

The bench took him away from us in 1936, but he left behind him fond memories.

A brilliant man, he served his country well and will be remembered as an outstanding figure in our political and legal life.

At the risk of again passing for a fascist, a supporter of Franco, I wish to thank the government for having allowed a peaceful invasion of Spain by our commercial attachés. I feel sure that both our country and theirs will profit much by it and I hope that the Canadian government will even go further and appoint an ambassador so that we may take advantage not only of commercial exchanges but also of cultural exchanges since all the members of this house know the high value of Spanish culture or of any other Latin culture for that matter.

I trust that in making this request to the government again as I have during the last three sessions, I shall not be branded as a fascist or a supporter of Franco. Even if I were, the only explanation I could give would be that, first of all, I believe in the full enjoyment of all political, social, economic and religious liberties under a moral law. If I requested, interceded and prayed for the re-establishment of our relations with Spain, I did so for two good reasons which were, which are and which will ever be all-important. First, Spain was the anti-communist bulwark in Europe; second, Spain is a strategic point which could close the entrance to the Mediterranean sea should our enemies, the communists in this case, take a part of Africa and definitely invade the European continent. Those are the two reasons I have given and I repeat them. I am proud of having insisted on renewal of our relations with Spain.

I wish to thank the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier) and the Postmaster General (Mr. Rinfret) for the construction and completion of a splendid public building at Donnacona. The Post Office Department took possession of it recently. Service is perfect and I am sure that the people of Portneuf are grateful to the two hon. ministers and to the government.

I now come to a subject I have already dealt with in this house. I believe it to be important. I refer to the digging of a channel between Deschambault and Lotbinière. I know that the amount required for the dredging of this channel may seem huge to the layman and may cause the Minister