

hon. and distinguished friend, the member for Brandon (Mr. Matthews) for the adoption of the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

HON. R. J. MANION (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like first to offer my very hearty congratulations to the mover (Mr. Matthews) and to the seconder (Mr. Chevrier) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. On a good many occasions in this house I have listened to new members, to young members and some not so young, performing this duty, and I say at once that the two hon. members who moved and seconded the address to-day did so as creditably as any other two whom I have ever heard. The air of the constituencies of Brandon and Stormont must be conducive to good speaking, because I will remember that during the campaign to which my hon. friend the member for Brandon (Mr. Matthews) referred, in which I myself made a couple of speeches—but not very effectively, apparently—the young candidate who ran against him, George Beaubier, surprised me with his splendid gift of eloquence. And in regard to the constituency of Stormont, the predecessor of the present member of that constituency, Frank Shaver, was also a splendid speaker upon any subject in connection with which he took part in debate. So that the house was favoured to-day, Mr. Speaker, in these two addresses by members from constituencies where, if we are to judge from their performance here, the air is conducive to a high quality of public speaking.

May I add one word in regard to the hon. member for Stormont? It always surprises, I think, those of us of English extraction to note the ease with which Canadians of French extraction shift from one language to the other. I have perhaps never heard anybody shift quite so often or quite so easily as my hon. friend (Mr. Chevrier) did to-day. At the same time it does make some of us English-speaking people a little ashamed that only from French Quebec do we get this gift of the two languages, which is such an asset to any member of this house, but which unfortunately does not exist to any very considerable extent outside the province of Quebec.

Unfortunately, I find myself not altogether in agreement with everything the two hon. gentlemen have said, but they would hardly expect me to agree with them entirely. The hon. member for Brandon was not happy in his reference to the voice of western Canada. He argued that his success in Brandon was an indication that the voice of western Canada had spoken emphatically in support of this

government. As I recall, however, the vote did not quite show such a result. On looking up the vote I find that the present member for Brandon received 6,583 votes and his opponents 9,177. If that distribution of votes represents the voice of western Canada, then I am rather afraid that it is not very encouraging to the government. Indeed, the hon. member received just over 41 per cent of the votes. If therefore the voice of Brandon was the voice of the people of Manitoba, then the voice of Waterloo South was the voice of the people of Ontario, because I find that the hon. member for Waterloo South (Mr. Homuth), the able and active gentleman who represents that constituency, with ten or twelve years of very valuable experience behind him in the provincial house at Toronto, swamped his two opponents, both the Liberal and the representative of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation—swamped them to such an extent that they both lost their deposits. That makes me rather strongly of the opinion that, if we must judge by by-elections, the government has no reason to regard the results as very encouraging. The Liberal received in the constituency of Waterloo South just 24 per cent of the vote. The Conservative received over 50 per cent and the representative of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation got the remainder. The Liberal received altogether just under 25 per cent in Waterloo South. I repeat, therefore, that the hon. member for Brandon was not quite fortunate in that reference. However, I will let it go at that.

My hon. friends opposite made a gallant attempt to win the Brandon by-election and they succeeded through a minority vote. They sent to the constituency three ministers, ten members of parliament and three members of legislature. They did pretty well. They missed one of the ministers, however. The hon. member for Port Arthur (Mr. Howe), the Minister of Transport, was to have appeared there the day I was there but through an accident he did not arrive. The other day he said that it was a good thing that he did not because every by-election that he had taken part in had been lost to the Liberal party. That is his joke, not mine. On the other side, we had in support of our candidate, the Hon. J. L. Bowman and myself among privy councillors, two members of legislature and one member of parliament. We were altogether outnumbered and, from what I have heard, the odds were against us so far as cash was concerned. That is the information that has been given me.

May I say one other word about the hon. member for Brandon. The hon. gentleman spoke of the importance of wheat growing