

The Address—Mr. George

FISHERIES

ATLANTIC SEAL FISHERY—SEASON OF 1952

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. J. Browne (St. John's West): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Has any date been agreed upon for the commencement of the killing of seals in the 1952 Atlantic seal fishery? I may say that I learned only this afternoon that the Nova Scotia fleet had sailed.

Hon. R. W. Mayhew (Minister of Fisheries): I regret that I cannot give a definite answer at this time. I will answer the question on Monday.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. E. W. GEORGE
AND SECONDED BY MR. ANDRE GAUTHIER

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. E. W. George (Westmorland): Mr. Speaker, the tributes paid in this house to our late king and sovereign represent the feelings of all Canadians. To the people of this country, who have never forgotten the visit of the king and queen in 1939 and their many associations with our armed forces during the war, the king was both a great king and a good man. His passing is mourned not only in Canada and elsewhere throughout the commonwealth but everywhere in the free world. His tour of duty with the senior service during the first war and the trials and tribulations which were his during the second war indeed made him a war casualty.

His sense of duty to his family and to his peoples made him deeply loved by all. To his mother, Queen Mary, to his sorrowing wife, now the queen mother, and to the Princess Margaret Rose we extend our deep and heartfelt sympathy. To her gracious majesty Queen Elizabeth II we extend our deepest sympathy, pledge her our loyalty and devotion and pray that she may be spared to reign over us for many years.

One of the outstanding events of the last year was the visit of Queen Elizabeth, then Princess Elizabeth, and her sailor husband, Prince Philip. It is unfortunate that this joyful event was so closely followed by sadness. Their tour of this country will long be remembered and these associations have brought the people of Canada closer to the royal family than ever before.

I wish to express to the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and his colleagues my sincere thanks for having been given the honour

of moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I am aware that this honour is more a tribute to my constituents than to myself. I am proud on this occasion not only for my constituents and myself but also because of the fact that the address which I will move will be for the first time in our history to a governor general who is a native-born son.

I am sure that all Canadians are exceedingly sorry that the former governor general, Lord Alexander, has ended his term of office and returned to his country. Field Marshal Alexander is what is known as a soldier's soldier. He reached the top of his profession and is held in high regard not only by the people of his own country but also by those of every state in the world. Some of us had the privilege of serving under him, and without exception he commanded the respect of all. Canadians will wish Lord and Lady Alexander and their family well, wherever they may be, never forgetting their service to Canada in war and in peace.

On the 14th of January Canada was honoured by a visit from the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain. Mr. Churchill is no stranger to this country and it was a pleasure to welcome him back. In those dark days during the second world war he became far more than prime minister of Great Britain. For all of us his voice was the voice of human freedom. He had become the symbol of the unconquerable spirit of free men and women faced with terrible days. In Canada our first concern outside of our boundaries is for the closest and most friendly relations between Canada and the United States. We acknowledge with gratitude that no living man has done more than he to bring this about.

Yesterday we witnessed an historic event in our annals. For the first time our sovereign is represented in her realm of Canada by a Canadian. The Right Hon. Vincent Massey, former soldier, industrialist, professor, diplomat, patron of the arts, university chancellor, has Canadianism as his creed and has been its apostle since his youth. He was chairman of the royal commission on national development in the arts, letters and sciences, and the report of this royal commission is in itself a tribute to the man who was chairman. The government is to be congratulated on its choice for the high office of Her Majesty's personal representative in her realm of Canada.

It was with deep regret, Mr. Speaker, that I learned of the passing of the late hon. member for Victoria-Carleton. Mr. Hatfield had represented this riding since 1940 and had endeared himself to his constituents. He