

*The Address—Mr. McMillan*

between the two governments in the construction of the project as a whole, both for navigation and for hydroelectric power development, appear quite good at the present time, and we are hopeful that within a short time there will be some constructive action in that regard.

**Mr. Graydon:** That is good news.

**SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. W. H.  
MCMILLAN AND SECONDED BY MR.  
MAURICE BRETON

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

**Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland):** Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to move, seconded by the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Breton):

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency Field Marshal the Right Honourable the Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the decoration of the Military Cross, Governor General and Commander in Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both houses of parliament.

I am well aware, sir, that the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) has conferred a high honour upon me in inviting me to move the address to His Excellency in reply to the speech from the throne. I do not view this as a personal tribute, because this is my first step into Canadian politics and I have yet to prove my fitness for this important undertaking. I consider it rather as a tribute to the good people of the county of Welland whom I have the honour to represent. It is also a tribute to the memory of my immediate predecessor as member for that county, the late Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, for many years minister of labour, whose untimely death was a shock to all the people of my county, as I am sure it was to all hon. members of this house. His untiring efforts on behalf of his constituents and the people of Canada generally will long be remembered. It is also a tribute to the medical profession of which I am a member. In this house there have been many distinguished members of that

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

profession, in the past as there are at the present time. The Minister of National Revenue (Mr. McCann) is a member of my profession, who quite recently received the honorary degree of doctor of laws from his and my alma mater, Queen's university.

In passing I cannot help paying tribute to an old friend and medical confrere, the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Blair). We graduated together from Queen's in medicine; we joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and spent three years in France. Then we came back and did post-graduate work together in New York. Now, after all these years, we are together again and yet apart, in this Canadian House of Commons.

On one occasion during the first world war it was my privilege to sit in the gallery at Westminster. At that time I heard the first sea lord, the late Sir John Fisher, answer critics of the Royal Navy, while trying to get some estimates passed. He was assisted by such illustrious parliamentarians as the late Right Hon. Bonar Law and the late Sir Arthur Balfour, afterward Lord Balfour. These were household names in the British empire and throughout the world at that time. I was impressed by the democratic processes at work that day. I have always looked upon the mother of parliaments as the ideal in democracy. There a freedom has been developed under which all men are equal, an ideal that has long since taken root wherever Britishers have gone.

Today a tyranny threatens that way of life. Our civilization has reached a point at which the destiny of our country, and perhaps in no small part that of the whole world, may well be in the hands of the hon. members of this house. We pray for courage, for resolution and for divine guidance during this critical period of our history. I feel that our chief consideration here should be for our own survival and the survival of democracy.

In his New Year's message to the Canadian people I heard His Excellency state that he would be pleased to remain in Canada throughout 1951. I am sure I express the sentiments of all hon. members of this house when I say we would be pleased to hear him repeat that message at the beginning of 1952. During the second world war Field Marshal Alexander won our admiration as an outstanding military leader. Since then His Excellency and Lady Alexander have done much travelling in Canada and have endeared themselves to the hearts of the Canadian people.

The counties of Welland and Lincoln are the most easterly in the Niagara peninsula. They are separated from the great empire