

has come to every country under the flag, to black and white, to yellow and red, to every creed and colour, the right of liberty and equal citizenship under the flag. Yet, with our buoyant revenues, with our wealth of potential greatness, we have said that we are not willing to bear our share of the defence of that nation, of which we so often say we are proud to form a part. I rather sympathize with the Government and with the right honourable Leader of the Government in the disposition which made him refrain this year from mentioning naval aid in the Speech.

I thank you, Sir, and honourable members on both sides of this House for the kindly feeling with which you have listened to the rambling remarks of a novice. I am not partisan enough to think that honourable members on both sides are not endeavouring to serve this great country and this great Empire, and I hope that with honourable members on both sides of this House I shall do my humble part in advancing the interest of this young Canada that we love.

Mr. J. O. LAVALLEE (Bellechasse) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, considering my lack of experience I should undoubtedly have shun the honour of seconding the mover of the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne, had I not realized at the same time that the invitation was intended as a compliment to that community of farmers and settlers in whose midst I consider myself happy to dwell.

Moreover the compliment thus paid is presently being turned into a priceless favour, since I am permitted to express myself in that language which my fellow-countrymen appreciate so highly and which the right hon. leader of this Government, as well as the majority of his colleagues, is proud to be able to understand and to speak.

Whenever my hon. friends on the other side have an opportunity of meeting the French-Canadian electors of the province of Quebec or elsewhere, they should to my mind thank Providence for having entrusted with the management of public affairs in this country, a prime minister who understands and enjoys speaking it, though sprung from a different stock.

And in making public acknowledgment of this fact, they may be making amends for having allowed a despicable prejudice to gain currency in their interest, viz. that an English-speaking prime minister could not possibly be as well disposed towards,

†Mr. McLeod.

or as devoted to, the French-Canadian people.

On behalf of my constituents and on my own behalf, on behalf of those pioneers of colonization who are carrying on the work started three centuries ago for a greater and more united Canada, I beg to tender to the right hon. Prime Minister the assurance of my most hearty gratitude for this kindly courtesy.

It has been stated that the twentieth century will be the century of Canada. I may add that it will be such only in so much as agriculture and the agricultural class will have been granted their due share of influence in public affairs. It will be the century of Canada only in so much as this quarter of a century will have been the golden age of agriculture.

It was incumbent on this Government to accomplish for Canada what a Sully, under Henry the Fourth, accomplished for France in the sixteenth century. We read in history that, with a view to allaying the hard times which France had been suffering for a number of years, and with a view at the same time to improving the financial status of his government, that great statesman endeavoured to foster agriculture by having more land cleared, by building and repairing bridges, improving means of transportation, in short by doing for the farmer's benefit all that was of a nature to help him on and to improve his opportunities. 'Ploughing and pasturage, those, he was wont to say, are the real gold mines of Peru.'

Those means which ensured to France in the early seventeenth century a period of real and solid wealth and prosperity, should benefit our country to a large extent. Similar means are bound to bring about similar results.

Such is my sincere belief, Mr. Speaker, and I am satisfied that this same policy would successfully, and once for all, solve the problem of the high cost of living which has been growing on us for the last decade, and which has its starting point in the fact that agricultural production has not kept pace with the increase of population in business and industrial centres.

I say that within the last ten years the progress of agriculture, as well as of the live stock industry, has not been on a par with the growth of population. The last census contains interesting statistics in this connection. They go to show that the population of several countries in the older