

prestige of the Hon. R. B. Bennett whom we welcome to-day as the Prime Minister of Canada.

As in 1911, the representative of the riding of Dorchester had the honour of seconding the address in reply to the speech from the throne, likewise in 1930 the member for Dorchester is so privileged. When so many names may have suggested themselves to the mind of the hon. Prime Minister, it pleased him, sir, to bestow this honour upon the constituency of Dorchester and the district of Quebec, by confiding to my humble talents the care of fulfilling this task.

Indeed, although I feel unworthy of such a privilege, nevertheless I greatly prize the opportunity offered to me of speaking French from a side of the house whence it is seldom heard. If politics be an art and science according to the viewpoint which strikes most forcibly the individual mind, it is also to some extent as regards its moods, dependent on chance. I find the most striking proof of this statement in the fact, that it is possible for me, to-day, to address you Mr. Speaker. Events without precedent and which surely will not repeat themselves again, had deprived one of our political parties of an adequate representation. Contrary to the principle and spirit of the confederation pact, a "bloc" was formed to the greatest detriment of the two parties and national harmony. This "bloc" has crumbled. The country has returned to its normal state. We have come back to the sound political traditions of calm and sound judgment, peaceful and the harmonious working of parliamentary usages. Thank God, since the working of subordinate causes form part of the design of his Divine Providence. Is not, after all, what we designate as chance, the unforeseen working of these causes that our mind too slow or too superficial does not seem to grasp?

The province of Quebec, sir, is traditionally conservative. Might I be so bold as to add that it is so by calling. It certainly is by inclination. Some detected in this an omen of weakness, a sure sign of a spirit refractory to progress. A great error. Progress is no more the frenzy of innovation than it is the fever of instability. Well ordained evolution characterizes true progress, it is born from cautiousness, a preeminent virtue, and cautiousness, if I be not mistaken, is by definition conservative. Our people are cautious. They dislike adventure, the uncertain. They wish to remain what they are. They remember.

This stability, this force for peace and respect of the law, which men have so often acknowledged as an asset of the people of

my province, constitute truly their conservative formation. They have accomplished this miracle of remaining true to themselves, in spite of conditions and men. Our people were able to preserve their faith, their language, their customs, their soul and spirit. If they have followed and at times preceded the ascent of progress which has so rapidly taken place in our wonderful country, they did so in their own way, harmoniously with their idiosyncracies and common ideals, which make them somewhat different to the other constitutive elements of the nation, something ideally conservative.

In keeping faith to the extent of one third of its political allegiance, our province remembered. I do not wish, sir, to remind the house of the learned dissertations which, preceding the negotiations of 1867, prepared and facilitated them. These are subjects that the historian can usefully discourse upon to the benefit of those who take an interest in political philosophy.

Confining my remarks therefore, if you will permit me, sir, to the events which immediately preceded the recent appeal to the people, I shall lay stress on certain facts which, among all have forcibly drawn my attention. The hon. Prime Minister travelled through our provinces from the lower part of the St. Lawrence to the United States border, advocating a policy of action which has already borne its first fruit. He neither spared his time nor his energy. Our people courteously listened to him; they greeted him with many of these demonstrations which are seldom seen except in our province. However, all this is not, in my opinion, what impressed them most.

The foremost reason of the great success achieved by the members sitting to your right, sir, consists greatly, it is true, but not altogether in the impression of earnestness and seriousness, of realism might we say, left upon the French Canadian population of my province by the personality, the attitude and eloquence of the hon. Prime Minister. That which drew it and won it over, was the return of the Conservative party to the past, to the traditional policy of Macdonald and Cartier, a policy of common sense, of stability in the order of things, of harmony and mutual respect of the two great races which on the soil of America, were given the mission of maintaining civilization and liberty.

That is why the sense of conservatism of our race has once more asserted itself; that is why the traditional spirit was restored; that is why we are here. It is because the hon. Prime Minister and his candidates sought