

*The Address—Mr. Drew*

women, because the presence of these four ladies here indicates the extent to which any discrimination of that kind is receding in the minds of all our people.

The hon. member for Halton (Miss Bennett) bears a distinguished name associated with the government of Canada, and she has served in many capacities in the public life of her own community and in the general services of the country.

The hon. member for York-Humber (Miss Aitken) also bears a name not entirely unassociated with political activity. She has won a high reputation in the profession in which she has been engaged, and she brings here a very wide audience beyond the confines of her own constituency. I might say that perhaps she had as varied an experience in finding her way into this chamber as any member in this house.

May I also extend my good wishes to the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mrs. Shipley), whom I have had the pleasure of meeting on earlier occasions when our paths used to cross in another legislative field. To all of these ladies, I am sure the best wishes of the members go, and may I express my great personal pleasure that we now see this increasing number of lady members. We hope this trend may increase as the years go on.

Reference is made in the speech from the throne to an event which has deeply stirred the emotion of all who live within the commonwealth—yes, of all who love freedom in every part of the world. The coronation has brought the crown closer to the people than any event in history. No earlier monarch ever came to the throne with such universal acclaim. No monarch anywhere ever so completely captivated the hearts of all.

So much has been written and said that there is no occasion now to review the impressions of that event. What does call for comment is the emphasis it places upon our own unique traditions and institutions and the immeasurable value of some of those written and unwritten rules which provide the secret of the abiding strength of our own particular form of democracy. Within very recent years our own history has shown that our monarchy is monarchy by consent and is at all times subject to the supreme will of the people expressed through their chosen representatives. That is a solemn thought for each one of us to ponder as we gather here once again to do the nation's business.

We are reminded afresh that these institutions and traditions have met every test during years which have seen the collapse and obliteration of other political systems in other lands where people forgot that tradition

is more than history, but in truth provides the only safe guide for the future.

Now the Queen is about to start on a visit to the West Indies, Australia, New Zealand and other distant places. Nothing like it has ever been undertaken before by a reigning monarch. We remember the enthusiasm with which she was received here in Canada while her father was still alive. We know the kind of reception she will receive in Australia, New Zealand and other lands through which she and her husband will travel. It is a great opportunity to extend that sense of personal contact with the throne which can mean so much to all of us who express our allegiance to a single crown. The young Queen, our Queen, is undertaking a heavy task. I am sure we will all join in wishing for her and her husband Godspeed and a safe return to their young children, who will be so very much in their minds and hearts at all times during that long trip.

One thing which I think should be mentioned, and which I am sure everyone who was in Britain during the coronation will confirm, is that within the past year there has been an almost unbelievable improvement in the spirit of the British people and in the tempo of their daily activities. All those who have had occasion to visit Britain regularly have, without exception, commented on this new spirit. Undoubtedly, some of this was an instinctive response to the emotional uplift of the coronation itself. But it had started before the coronation ceremonies began and it has continued since that time. Most certainly the coronation stimulated and refreshed the spirits of the British people after all their years of austerity, but I think it would be very unfortunate for us and for them to overlook the fact that this new spirit had been largely found in the increasing freedom from controls and restraints which had limited their freedom of action for nearly fourteen years. The unending rule that people work harder and with better spirit and greater efficiency when the reward for work becomes more apparent was never more clearly demonstrated than it has been in Britain during the past year.

We all rejoice, and rejoice with warm hearts, that the armistice in Korea has brought to an end the fighting in that distant and troubled land, we hope permanently. Once again we have all been given reason for pride in the valour, fortitude and high purpose of those who wear the uniform of Canada. Many young Canadians have died, and to their families, to all their friends and those close to them, I know that we extend our sympathy, as do all the people of Canada. Many more will