

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. BREWER ROBINSON moved:

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious Speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, namely:

To His Excellency Major-General the Right Honourable the Earl of Athlone, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Grand Master of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, one of His Majesty's Personal Aides-de-Camps, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of the Dominion of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate 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.

He said: Honourable senators, I deeply appreciate the honour of having my name associated with this motion, and the opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to the honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate. I feel that the honour which has been conferred on me has probably been given in well-deserved recognition of those in the Navy, the Army and the Air Force whom we of the Canadian Legion War Services, and other organizations of the auxiliary services, have had the privilege of serving overseas in this war, and of my old comrades of the last war. Also I believe it is a tribute to my native province of Prince Edward Island, whose record of enlistments in the services, and of victory loan subscriptions, has been something of which our province has just reason to be proud.

May I extend to you, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations upon your appointment to the honourable position which you now occupy. With your many years of experience in public life and your long experience as a member of the Senate, I am confident that you will preside over the Senate with honour and distinction.

I should also like to extend my congratulations to the honourable Senator from Shelburne (Hon. Mr. Robertson) upon his appointment as Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON.

Speaking here for the first time, while deeply conscious of the honour conferred on me, the difficulty of the task is such that I would have turned from it had I not felt I could depend upon the generosity and indulgence of those of greater experience who listen to my modest remarks.

First, may I state how much I appreciate the honour of being a member of the Senate of Canada, and may I express my gratitude for the friendly welcome extended to the new members of the Senate.

As we assemble at this, the opening session of the Twentieth Parliament of Canada, immediately following the victorious conclusion of the war—for which we give our humble thanks to Divine Providence—I feel that the problems now facing us are equally as serious as those which confronted the special session of Parliament which was called when war was declared. The great question then was the winning of the war, and I am sure that every Canadian is proud of Canada's contribution towards bringing about the final and complete downfall of the aggressors. Through Divine Guidance and much sacrifice we have reached that goal. Now we and those nations associated with us are face to face with other problems; but if we apply ourselves to the solving of these problems as energetically and effectively as we applied ourselves to the winning of the war, we shall not fail in the all important task of achieving a complete and lasting peace. It is certain that in this task the policies forecast in the Speech from the Throne will constitute a valuable nucleus around which to formulate a programme which will enable Canada to play her full part.

There are one or two subjects mentioned in the Speech from the Throne upon which I should like to say a few words. The first is the Government's announced project for the beautification of Ottawa and the surrounding district as a National Memorial to those who served and died in the war just ended. I believe I am justified in saying that many cities, towns and villages in Canada should have more parks and open spaces, and nothing could be more appropriate than memorials of this nature, which time cannot destroy. While in England I was asked what I should remember longest about London, and I answered without hesitation, "It's many parks with all their natural beauty."

Secondly, as one who has always been proud to be a Canadian, I certainly approve of Canada having a distinctive national flag. The need was never more in evidence than during the years of the war, when every other nation of the Commonwealth proudly displayed a distinctive official national flag.