

Mr. O. TURGEON (Gloucester): I promise, Mr. Speaker, that what I have to say in this debate shall be brief, for I have no desire to delay the House. At the outset I may be permitted a word or two to add my tribute of congratulation to the mover and seconder of the Address, and to qualify my approval to this extent, that in my opinion they have acquitted themselves equally as well as other speakers who, in this House, have had to discharge a similar duty; having brought to their task a degree of eloquence that is quite admirable. Concerning the principal purpose for which this session has been called, that is, the ratification of the Peace Treaty and the Covenant of the League of Nations, I shall reserve until the proper time any views which I may wish to express upon the subject, hoping in the meantime that as a result of the Treaty and the establishment of the League of Nations a great and lasting peace will be assured, and that the highest anticipations as to the outcome of the Peace Conference will be realized.

Meanwhile, since last session the Prime Minister has been left without some of his colleagues. Some have resigned to accept office and others to retire from active political life. The western provinces have lost one of their ministers, but he was replaced at once by another from the same district. The province of Ontario, in the resignation of the Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White), has lost one of its ministers, but he was replaced at once by another. These two, while they have not been able to get seats in the House of Commons and to express their policies and feelings to the people of Canada, have at least represented their districts in the councils of the nation. The province of New Brunswick has lost the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Carvell); he resigned to accept office and for the last two months practically that province has been left without representation in the councils of the nation.

Mr. E. LAPOINTE: Just as well.

Mr. TURGEON: That may be, but it is not according to the dignity or the duty of the Government to leave a province without representation for such a long time. It may be that it is difficult for the right hon. the Prime Minister to make a choice. However, I do not see why some one has not been called upon to fill the vacancy during the last six or seven weeks. The Government has six or seven supporters on the other side of the House from that province every one of whom, I am sure, would be

willing to accept the responsibilities of office. It is impossible to believe that every one of these six or seven representatives of the people from the province of New Brunswick is so modest that he will not accept any office at the hands of the Prime Minister. Is it, that the sweets of office have turned sour and that nobody wants to taste them? The people of New Brunswick are anxious that something should be done, and, while the Prime Minister continues to lead the destinies of the nation, New Brunswick should be given its fair share of representation as well as assuming its responsibility for the administration of affairs. In the years gone by and up to the present time the province of New Brunswick has been represented by men of great talent, high position and enjoying a large measure of public esteem. We have had a long succession of able representatives from Confederation down to recent times. We had, first, Sir Leonard Tilley, and then we had the present right hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster), who, as Minister of Finance, represented the province of New Brunswick in the councils of the nation not only with dignity to himself but with satisfaction and honour to his province. We consider him yet the great genius of finance on the other side of the House although he has not been given by this Government the position which would enable him to exercise that talent. We are anxious that we should be represented in this Government no matter what the difficulties may be. One more cannot add much more to its weakness while it may add something to its strength.

Before I proceed any further, as my voice is now raised on behalf of the province of New Brunswick and perhaps the last to be heard from that province in this debate, let me say that I do not wish to resume my seat without making reference to the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales who first set foot in Canada within the province which I have the honour to represent. It was in the city of St. John that His Royal Highness, our future King, who, in the years to come will succeed not only to the throne of his father but to that of his ancestors, every one of whom from Queen Victoria to George V has added lustre to the British Empire, first met the people of Canada. Let me say here to the House and the country that the people of New Brunswick received His Royal Highness with the same enthusiasm as has been manifested in the larger cities of Montreal,