

The Address—Mr. Slaght

behind only those measures which are believed to be for the benefit of the whole Canadian people.

In closing may I quote two lines from that much beloved and lately departed English poet, Rudyard Kipling, to whose memory I am sure this house will concur in permitting me to pay tribute. The lines to which I refer are from the poem "If", and perhaps they will serve as an admonition to our government with its vast majority, as well as a comfort to our friends of the opposition with their small minority. They are:

If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;

I have pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in moving the resolution which I gave to you in opening, expressing the hope that the measures dealt with in this our eighteenth parliament may be of great benefit to Canada, and that better times may come upon our country, perhaps brought by providence, but by a providence assisting a government of which providence approves. May I conclude by expressing again the hope that in our deliberations and conclusions during this parliament we may bear in mind the fact that there is always a far horizon for onward looking men.

Mr. SARTO FOURNIER (Maisonneuve-Rosemount) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, this parliament has opened in an atmosphere of mourning. In losing George V, we have lost a prince in whom all was kingly. Like Charlemagne, he deeply loved his people and his people deeply loved him. And what of his paternal solicitude for youth? Never shall we forget it. History will assuredly perpetuate the recollection full of love, admiration and gratitude in which we hold him.

Edward VIII succeeds him. He is known to all and all agree that he is a young man in whom high intelligence is combined with a deep knowledge of men and of things. On his head the British crown has lost nothing of its splendour, of its authority in the empire and of its prestige in the world.

I am certain, Mr. Speaker, that I interpret the sentiment of all your colleagues when I warmly congratulate you on your election to the speakership of the House of Commons. The difficult task you have assumed requires your fine qualities of heart and all the resources of your ability and of your great experience. May I beg of you to grant me your good will? I have such great need of it, especially at this moment.

Our acquaintance, becoming daily more intimate, with His Excellency the new representative of His Majesty in Canada, Lord

[Mr. Slaght.]

Tweedsmuir, whose life is a continuous ascent, and of his gracious consort, Lady Tweedsmuir, convinces us once more of the great care London takes to send to us men who bring us their services, leave with us something of themselves and return home with our friendship.

When a patient realizes that he has made a mistake in changing his physician, he returns to his former one. After five years in opposition, the Liberal party is back in office. This was to be expected. The recollection of the past, the difficulties of the present, the uncertainty of the future, the increasing popularity of the Liberal leader, together with the excellence of the program which he put forth and which we upheld before the electors, all that explains the fortunate defeat of the other parties and the magnificent triumph of ours, to which my distinguished colleague from Parry Sound (Mr. Slaght) has just referred. There was no misunderstanding. The nation had to make its choice. It pronounced itself decisively and, in handing us the reins of power, it recognized and sanctioned once more the essentially liberal principal of freedom of trade, which has figured for forty years in the first article of the program of the Liberal party and which is founded on the reciprocal need that peoples and individuals have of each other.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE: Hear, hear.

Mr. FOURNIER: Governments whose names are linked with periods of prosperity were composed, as ours is, of men who understood that the interdependence of individuals and classes of society, the international solidarity of peoples, becoming closer and closer according as the obstacles of time and place diminish, make it impossible for prosperity to be a local phenomenon and the exclusive lot of a single nation.

The disregard of this principle has led to the extreme nationalism that has brought us to our present sorry pass: a bitter experience that history will record as one of the greatest humiliations of the human mind. The government, as is proved by the speech from the throne, of which my distinguished colleague from Parry Sound has just proposed the adoption in a remarkable piece of eloquence that has shown him to be a master of the art of expressing his thought, the government, I say, has avoided falling into the error of this eccentric theory of ultra-protectionism and other similar doctrines that may come to us from the opposition and which sanction in their laws the vices that nature prescribes in hers.