

*The Address—Mr. Boivin*

Members of the press gallery would be able to prepare their reports while the member is speaking. They wouldn't have to wait many hours, until they can get copies from the Hansard reporters. The public attending our proceedings would also be able to hear the speeches. You will agree, Mr. Speaker, that such a system would not be too costly. In my opinion, it should be installed regardless of costs, because of all the advantages it would bring. My suggestion should be taken into consideration without further delay, for as a result of the redistribution of seats and of the entry of Newfoundland into confederation, the number of members will increase and the need will be more strongly felt.

Mr. Speaker, after reading the speech from the throne I beg you to convey my most sincere congratulations to His Excellency the Governor General, whose words show the importance of the present session.

I also wish, without further delay, to congratulate most heartily the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), in my own name and on behalf of my constituency, on his appointment as leader of our party. He now holds in his hands the destinies of our country. The people of the constituency of Shefford, which I represent here, had reason to rejoice over his election, since it is part of the eastern townships, of the region where the minister was born, i.e. the county of Compton.

About a year ago, prior to his appointment as prime minister, the member for Quebec East was the guest of his Alma Mater. On that occasion, one of our most prominent personalities spoke in the following terms:

Tonight, I found, once again, that Mr. St. Laurent lived up to my expectations which were based not only on what others have said and on his own speeches but on confidential information purporting that by his sincerity of purpose and upright behaviour he has long since made his mark. Your sincerity, Mr. St. Laurent, explains why you have met with such success. You have shown that those who convince others and who are listened to in the long run are the very ones who toiled honestly and spoke the truth, except when circumstances compelled them to keep it to themselves.

Since it has become a habit with you to climb gradually, you have come to study great problems, to ponder over broad considerations. By your behaviour, by the uprightness of your conduct, by your honesty, by your love of truth, you have set a fine example for all to follow.

These words, spoken before Mr. St. Laurent had assumed his high office, were quite justifi-

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able at the time but have since proved even more to the point.

In asking me to wish Mr. St. Laurent on their behalf good health and ever-increasing success, the people of my constituency of Shefford entrusted me with a very pleasant task.

For quite some time, the papers had mentioned rumours that no one would credit in reporting that the member for Glengarry (Mr. Mackenzie King) would resign as prime minister because of ill health. These rumours were accurate, as we learned with deep feeling and regret, when he resigned some time after the last session. It is only fitting that I congratulate him on all he accomplished during the many years he was leader of the party and Prime Minister of Canada. There were dark days, indeed, but better times as well. We are very happy that his health allows him to remain among us in the house and hope that Providence will keep him with us for a long time to come.

The speech from the throne hints that the hope expressed by my colleague, the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Arsenault) and by myself last year, may come true. Please believe that if it does, the people of Canada, irrespective of party affiliations, will rejoice over such an appointment.

We also learned that the member for Neepawa (Mr. Bracken) retired as leader of the opposition. On his doctors' advice, he relinquished leadership of his party. May I assure him of our highest consideration and wish him good health and success.

I should like to welcome the new leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) who took his seat in the house recently. Although he has been with us but a short while, I feel sure he already sees the difference between the Legislative Assembly and the House of Commons. To use a well-known Quebec saying, I might add: he has finally met his "Quebec".

May I also extend greetings to our new colleagues from Algoma East (Mr. Pearson), Marquette (Mr. Garson) and Rosthern (Mr. Boucher) who have joined the members sitting on the right hand side of the house. I wish them every success in their new duties.

In listening carefully to the mover of the address, my friend and colleague the hon. member for Essex West (Mr. Brown), I felt, as I am sure others did, that he acquitted