

nections these resources must remain dormant and her thrifty and energetic people be deprived of the fruits of development which would most surely accrue if they had a railway through their country. I commend the building of branch lines where they are legitimately required, and in this connection I strenuously urge the construction by the government of a branch line connecting Alba on the main line of the Intercolonial Railway with Baddeck, the shire town of the county of Victoria.

It is most reassuring, Mr. Speaker, to know that as a result of the amendments to the Bank Act, enacted by parliament last year, the act has been improved. The appointment by the government of a commission to investigate the failure of the Home Bank is, in my opinion, the most reasonable method to pursue; and I feel that when the report of the commission is received and considered by the government of the day, they will do what is right toward all who are vitally interested in matters pertaining to this bank.

At this session, we are informed, the reports of the proceedings of the Imperial Conference held last year will be presented to parliament. In this connection I wish to congratulate the Right Honourable the Prime Minister and his colleagues who accompanied him to the conference on the manner in which we were represented overseas. The people of the Dominion of Canada have the fullest admiration for the able and distinguished manner in which they carried on the discussions and negotiations for and in behalf of this nation within the British Empire. Right truly did they set forth the true conception and ideal of our people as regards Canada's position as an autonomous entity in that galaxy of nations which will forever surround the British Throne.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other matters in the Speech from the Throne upon which I should like to comment, but this House has been so indulgent, that I feel I should not trespass any further upon its patience. I shall therefore refrain, lest further comment make my too prolix epistle fuller still. I have much honour, Sir, in moving the motion of which you have been given notice.

Mr. E. A. LAPIERRE (Nipissing) (Translation): I think, Mr. Speaker, that my first duty, in rising, is to express my heartfelt sorrow in the loss we have sustained by the death of Auguste Théophile Léger, member for Kent, who was so unexpectedly taken away from the affection of his family and the friendship of all those who were in a position to appreciate the eminent qualities of his heart and soul.

[Mr. Kelly.]

If I now glance around me, I can but equally regret the absence of two powerful parliamentary figures, the Right Hon. Mr. Fielding and Sir Lomer Gouin, as a result of illness and thereby removed from the scene of our political activities. Let us hope that Providence will still for a long time preserve to their country these men who unsparingly devoted themselves to her moral and material prosperity.

If, on the other hand these cruel losses have not all been repaired, we should rejoice in seeing Sir Lomer Gouin's seat occupied by a man so eminent and praiseworthy as the Hon. Ernest Lapointe, the new Minister of Justice. Our most sincere congratulations equally extend to the Hon. Mr. Cardin, whom the government, by a judicious choice, has called to the important post of Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

It is not my intention to dwell at length upon the gratitude which I feel towards the Prime Minister for the marked honour which he has conferred upon the constituency of Nipissing, in choosing me to second the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I highly appreciate the favour which is bestowed upon me to continue, in this House, the rightful tradition of seconding in French the motion on the Address. Representing a county where almost half the population is French Canadian, I feel happy to see conferred upon my constituents, that is upon a numerous group of my compatriots, the honour to vindicate in their name the right of the official use of French in our parliamentary deliberations as well as in our public service.

At the opening of a session of parliament, it is the custom to briefly review the general outlook of the country. While undesirous of going into all the particulars which such an examination would entail, may I be allowed however, to point out to your kind attention a few phases of our economic situation. Undoubtedly I shall be unequal to the task which devolves upon me. I must therefore rely upon your forbearance to supplement my deficiencies as a speaker; however, I trust you will agree with me upon the reasons that we all have in hoping for a brighter future.

If I first cast my eyes, and this very naturally, I think, towards New Ontario, I perceive the enormous ore deposits of this vast region. Silver, nickel and gold, each day, are constantly being worked on a more extensive scale. The output of these precious minerals is already so great, that the mines of northern Ontario are bound to be rated among the most productive in the world. One might also mention the iron deposits which only