

The question of tariff is a very important one. I notice in the Speech from the Throne a reference to the postal conference to be held between Canada and the United States. That indicates a friendly spirit. The Fordney Bill is not framed specially against Canada, and I understand there are possibilities of some trade arrangements being made with them.

I note also the co-ordination of all the branches of defence under one head. That is indicative undoubtedly of a period of economy in the administration of affairs, and I close with the golden words of one, ever respected by political friend and foe, a truly great Canadian, who left his mark forever upon this country, words uttered a short time before his death to the young Liberals of London, Ontario. I refer to the gifted leader of the Liberal party. He said to these young men—

After a long life I shall remind you that already many problems rise before you, problems of race division, problems of creed differences, problems of economic conflict, problems of national duty and national aspiration. Let me tell you that for the solution of these problems you have the safe guide and un-failing light if you remember that faith is better than doubt and love than hate. So live, so strive, so serve to do your part, to raise ever higher the standard of life you live in.

I have the honour, Sir, to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. PAUL MERCIER (Westmount-St. Henri) (Translation): Mr. Speaker: The opening of the fourteenth Parliament of Canada took place with the prescribed state ceremonies and amidst the concourse of the people mingling their voices in praise to God and our Sovereign King George V.

I highly appreciate the honour conferred by the Prime Minister in calling upon me to second the motion to the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne. This honour reflects highly upon the electors of the division of Westmount-St. Henri.

Rest assured, Mr. Speaker, that in rising amongst this distinguished assembly of the nation, I realize fully all the responsibilities which, at this moment, devolve upon me. Once my task is fulfilled my one regret will be that of not having been equal to the mission so kindly entrusted to me. I therefore beg my fellow members to be indulgent and rather attribute to my lack of parliamentary experience the deficiencies of my debut in this House.

To second in my mother tongue the motion for the Address is to seize upon a

pleasing occasion to pay homage to my Sovereign, my country, my province and my race; it is at the same time to perform a duty towards our ancestors for the heritage which we have inherited in the form of the British North America Act; it affords the thankful son an occasion to remember his native province; it moreover testifies to the return to our best traditions; it is to trace our constitutional liberties back to their origin; finally, Mr. Speaker, it is to sanction anew the official use of the French language in the debate on the Address and in the administration of the affairs of the country. General elections took place on the 6th of December last. The Meighen Government and its followers had not the satisfaction of seeing their deeds and their political programme endorsed by the people. On the contrary the Canadian people placed their trust in the Liberals, made them their authorized mandatories under the direction of a Liberal ministry, having as its leader the young and brilliant successor to Laurier, the hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King. The country welcomed the new ministry composed of distinguished statesmen, and in the true spirit of our constitution, all responsible to the people. Just as in 1896, when the Laurier ministry assumed power, the Canadian people look forward with confidence to the future, trusting in the guiding light of those who henceforth designated to safeguard our Canadian traditions, direct the destinies of the country.

Within these parliamentary walls raised with such splendour from their ashes, Mr. Speaker, I feel throbbing in the elite that surround me, symbolising the nine provinces of Confederation, as it were, the anxious soul of the country. Canada is suffering from the consequence of the world-wide crisis; an epoch of heavy responsibility is its lot. Its revenues are no longer adequate to meet the national debt and to enable the federal administration to carry on. The country is anxious and suffering through unemployment; the wheels of industry are running slow. Our citizens bear up with sacrifices, proving by their quiet and dignified attitude that the solidarity in misfortunes must one day or another, earn them a better fate. As a representative of the people, I shared the intimate thoughts of my electors and with them I was most desirous to hear from the Governor General's lips, in the Speech from the Throne a message of good wishes and also the Government's pro-