

memories of the members elected by the people to represent them in the House of Commons.

Having spoken about my predecessors, I think it is my duty, at the beginning of my speech, to introduce myself and beg your indulgence as I am no philosopher.

You have no doubt noticed that I am one of the tallest members on the government side, but I am also one of the youngest.

You can easily understand why the diffidence I now feel is much greater than that of my predecessors, and for quite a good reason which I should like to state.

I had the honour to visit Parliament Hill as a young child, and my constituents showed their confidence by electing me as their representative, old memories come back to my mind. I may add further that when I went to the library in order to glance through the debates of many past years I noticed that thirty-five years ago, just a few days after the opening of the first session of the twelfth parliament, that is on November 29, 1911, in this very house, the then youngest member delivered before His Honour Thomas Simpson Sproule his maiden speech as the member for the constituency which I now have the honour to represent. While I am not a professional man, Divine Providence has ordained that the son should follow in his father's footsteps in order to protect, defend and assert the rights of his fellow-citizens.

On August 7, 1926, Divine Providence called to his reward a man who had devoted the best that was in him to his party and his country. He had been entrusted with the functions of Deputy Speaker of the house and later on, just about a year before his decease, that is, in 1925, those of Minister of Customs and Excise, duties which he honourably discharged in spite of the strong campaign waged by the opposition of that time.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr. BOIVIN: I shall never forget the following message of sympathy sent to my mother, by the then prime minister, who is still at the head of the administration, the Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King:

No other man of his time has rendered so many services to his country, with so much devotedness and loyalty, both as member of parliament, and as minister of the cabinet, as did the late Hon. Georges-Henri Boivin.

I feel it my duty, as one of the successors of the faithful supporter of the party and defender of his fellow citizens, to relate these facts to my younger colleagues from Quebec and the other provinces, so that they might draw inspiration from them and follow in his

footsteps during the transition period on the threshold of which we stand at the present time; thus, we shall ease to a certain extent, the heavy burden of our cabinet and, in particular, of the Prime Minister, who has directed our country through six long years of war, in such a way as to ensure its prosperity and cause it to be better known throughout the world as a country in which it is good to be living.

I grant, Mr. Speaker, that I should have liked to take part in this debate before to-day, but felt it my duty, as a junior member of the house, to take my bearings and first look after the interests of my constituents, by answering their requests and fraternizing with them, as I have ever done in the past, so that I may better understand their needs, which are largely those of the province and of the country at large.

May I be allowed to digress at this point in order to pay them tribute. Yes, the urban worker and the rural worker have indeed devoted time and energy to send one of their number as their representative in Ottawa; and you may be sure that, in return, I strive to represent them with that same sincerity which is theirs to such a high degree. Mr. Speaker, I was saying just now that they have made their needs known to me and, therefore, as their representative, it is my duty to acquaint you with those needs and tell you what the people of Shefford expect from the central government.

The county of Shefford lies in one of the most picturesque parts of the country, a region known as the Eastern townships, about 45 miles from the metropolis. Its industrial centre is my own home town of Granby, also known as the Princess of the Eastern townships, a most fitting appellation in view of the many parks and playgrounds that grace the locality. With a population of some 20,000, it boasts of some fifty different industries which provide employment due to the initiative of its business leaders.

I should add that the city of Granby also feels the effect of reconversion. We have our quota of unemployed. Its public organizations, such as the junior and senior boards of trade, and others too numerous to mention, are constantly on the lookout for new industries, ready to welcome workers and, thus decrease its claims on unemployment insurance.

Several of its citizens live in a princely fashion in this queen city, owning their homes of which they are justly proud.

On the other hand, a great number of our citizens are still homeless. In view of their insecure position, the town of Granby appealed