

*The Address—Mr. Patterson*

repetitious and even though my remarks will possibly be expressed with less emphasis and clarity, I would crave the indulgence of the house as I make some comments on the speech from the throne and on Canada's centennial in general.

One hundred years ago Canada was born as a nation and we are now in the midst of our one hundredth anniversary party. Already across this nation from coast to coast celebrations are taking place in all sectors of the population, in the provinces, the cities, the villages, the towns, the hamlets, and in many of the rural communities. These celebrations are being participated in by people who are proud to be Canadians, who appreciate the foundations that were laid for this great nation and the fact that over the past 100 years Canada has moved forward to achieve a place in the history of nations that I believe is very commendable. Elaborate planning, prodigious labour and substantial financing have gone into the arrangements, and with the advent of the summer months we anticipate an unprecedented flood of visitors from all parts of the world who are coming here to meet with us and to share in the celebrations of this memorable occasion.

Of course, at the very heart of our celebrations is Expo '67, an event which has been referred to as the greatest exposition ever held. Opened by His Excellency the Governor General, the personal representative of Her Majesty the Queen of Canada, on Thursday, April 27, it is a huge, spectacular exhibition which many of us have already been privileged to attend. It now appears that the success of this great project will be far beyond the greatest dreams of those who have had the responsibility for the planning and programming of this event.

● (2:50 p.m.)

As we begin this centennial session it is only natural that we should look back to the years which have gone by. I remember a quotation from Edmund Burke often referred to in this house and elsewhere. He stated that people will not look forward to posterity who never look back to their ancestors. It would seem to me that in this our centennial year we ought to look back and remember with pride those very fine and courageous men and women who laid the strong enduring foundations of this great nation. They were representatives of many nations. They were adherents of a variety of faiths. They were subscribers to different political philosophies. By setting aside their natural differences they

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accentuated their common purpose. As they laboured and toiled together they hewed out a kingdom in this land. They were the men and women who in full measure paid the price for what we are as a nation today.

While we pride ourselves on the marvels depicted in "A Man And His World", let us not forget the pioneers of this and of other lands who braved the dangers of their day, who travelled thousands of miles by canoe to search out and chart the vast expanses of this continent, who travelled in creaking wagons to build their homes on the frontiers of civilization and beyond and who, while not realizing it, set the stage for the vigorous and growing nation which we are proud to call our homeland today. So it is well, in this our centennial year, that we should pause to pay tribute to those who laid the foundations of our nation. May I say also that we should not fail to give thanks to God for the achievements of these 100 years and for the blessings of which we in this nation have been the recipients.

Having looked back, we think of the challenges which confront us today. I should like to refer to several of these challenges which I believe are most important. We must continue the development of our many natural resources. I do not think anyone would disagree with the statement that we have made tremendous progress materially in Canada. If we contrast present-day conditions with those which existed in pre-confederation days, and if we contrast as well what we have today with what we had in those days, I am sure all of us will agree that we have made tremendous progress from the material point of view. We must admit too that we have made tremendous gains technologically. While this country saw its beginnings in a mainly agricultural economy, and very limited at that, Canada today has achieved great success in the development of an industrial society. When we think of our resource development, again we have something of which we ought to be proud.

When we contemplate the progress which has been made in the development of our material resources, I think we ought to remember that the contemplation of this development alone will tend, rather than having beneficial results, to react unfavourably on mankind. Dr. Werner von Braun, director of the development operation division of the army ballistic missile agency, was asked recently:

Do you feel that modern man worships too much the golden calf of material progress?