

people, and of providing a more elastic and equitable distribution of the banking service, shall be rendered possible by that revision.

The Speech refers to a redistribution bill. That should have been brought down last session. It is overdue now. I welcome the appearance of that promise in the Speech, and venture the hope, in closing, that in carrying out their plans as to the redistribution bill the government will imitate the practice established in 1912 in submitting the question to a joint committee of parliament fairly constituted, doing so freely and without restrictions; and I trust that that committee will be commissioned to come to terms on the whole details of redistribution, fair and acceptable to all sections of this House. That is the right spirit in which to approach the redistribution problem. The government have an example in the procedure of 1912, and I ask that they follow it. If these suggestions are accepted by the administration, I venture to think that the labours of this parliament this session need be neither very onerous nor very long.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is always a pleasure to me to have the privilege of agreeing with my right hon. friend (Mr. Meighen) and to find that we are in accord on any important matters. His speech to-day has been characterized by the moderation in tone which he has ascribed to the remarks of the mover (Mr. Putnam) and seconder of the address (Mr. Rhéaume). I shall endeavour to follow my right hon. friend in like spirit. May I, with him, congratulate the mover and seconder upon the speeches they have delivered. The hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Putnam) who moved the Address has been in this House for a short time. We have not heard him speak very often; his modesty more or less constrains him to be silent in debate; but I think that all hon. members who have had the privilege of listening to his erudite address to-day will hope that in the course of the debates he will see his way to take a larger part. He has referred to the compliment which has been paid his constituency, and I think it is natural he should so regard the choice of himself as mover of the address. The hon. member may, however, feel that his fellow members on this side of the House take pride, as well, in his achievements as one who in public life has taken an active and courageous part. Some men enter public life in the hope more or less that, after taking an active part in political controversies, they may find, towards the close

thereof, some opportunity of public service removed from the uncertainties of politics. Very few there are who, having a position of security and of usefulness, are ready to give it up to embark upon the troubrous sea of politics. The hon. member for Colchester belongs to those of the exceptional class; he resigned an important life position which he held, to enter the arena of politics at the last general elections and contest a constituency which was then held by a minister of the Crown. He contested it successfully. After listening to him to-day we can appreciate some of the qualities which helped to win him the great confidence of the constituency he now represents.

The hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Rhéaume) who has seconded the motion, has delivered his maiden speech. All of us who have had that experience realize how difficult it is for a member to make his first public utterance in this House. I am sure, as we listened to the hon. member to-day, many of us, had we not known he was but recently returned, would have regarded him as an old parliamentarian. As a matter of fact, I believe the hon. member for Jacques Cartier has just come through his first political contest. He has not before been a member of a representative assembly. If to-day is any prophecy of the future, we may expect that the hon. member will in course of time make a distinguished name for himself, as so many of his fellow-members from the province of Quebec have done. He is an orator in his own tongue; had we had the privilege of hearing him in the English tongue, in which he is also fluent, I am sure we would have found him equally proficient.

May I follow my right hon. friend also in extending to the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Forke) congratulations upon the confidence which his fellow-members of the Progressive party have reposed in him. We all regret the circumstances which have made it seem necessary to the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Crerar) to withdraw from the active part he had previously been taking in the political life of our country. We are pleased, however, that he has found it possible to retain his seat in this House, and we hope that what will undoubtedly prove a gain for the business with which he is connected will not interfere too largely with his public duties, and thereby prove our loss, but that he will be enabled to take an active part in the discussions of this House.

I may say to my hon. friend from Brandon that we on this side feel that the confidence which has been placed in him by his fellow-