

ment should step in and take some very drastic action, and point out to the commissioners their duty to the country.

It was with very great regret that members of this House heard a short time ago of the illness of Sir Robert Borden. We all realize the tremendous amount of work which was cast upon his shoulders during the years of the war and during the period since the Armistice. He has done a great work for this country, and we realize that, if his health is in the condition in which it is reported to be at the present time, complete rest and change are absolutely necessary. We regret that he is not able to be here to attend to his parliamentary duties. At the same time, it is a very serious matter for the country to have the Prime Minister absent from his duties at a time like the present, when the conditions of the country require that a policy should be laid down, a policy which may take several years to work out, and which will necessitate great thought and experience. The Prime Minister is the member of the Government who is responsible for advising His Excellency the Governor General on the general policy of the Administration, and, as far as I know, no other minister is qualified to occupy that position. As the matter stands to-day, Sir Robert Borden is out of the country, and no one has been appointed to take his place. I hope that it will not be long before we get back to the proper constitutional methods of managing the affairs of this country.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Honourable gentlemen. I join with my honourable friend in the remarks which he has so fitly made with reference to our re-occupation of the Parliament Buildings. It is a matter of very great satisfaction to meet at this session within these walls. It is of course to be regretted that the building is not yet complete, but when we look back to the four short years that have elapsed since the tragic fire of February, 1916, we are indeed amazed at the rapidity with which the work of construction has proceeded. I doubt if there is in the world a finer legislative structure than that which we occupy to-day. The architect, Mr. John Pearson, informs me that, while there may be parliament buildings more expensive or of more massive proportions, we in Canada to-day possess a pile of buildings which for all the requirements of parliament, for modern equipment and convenience are probably superior to any others. We may congratulate ourselves that the material,

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the workmanship and the art which have been incorporated into these buildings are almost exclusively Canadian, and I think a tribute is due the architects, the builders and others who have been responsible for bringing this magnificent structure to the stage which it has reached.

It was very gracious of His Majesty the King to cable his felicitations to the assembled Parliament upon our meeting in these buildings on the 26th of last month. As my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Bostock) has pointed out, members of the Royal family of England have been peculiarly associated with these buildings since a time prior to Confederation. The site was selected by Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. The late King Edward VII, when Prince of Wales, laid the corner stone of the former edifice. The corner stone of this building was laid, as we all happily remember, by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught; and the corner stone of the tower was laid within a very recent period by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. So it was fitting indeed that we should receive at this auspicious time the cablegram which was sent by His Majesty, and our appreciation will, I hope, be expressed by a motion which I purpose introducing on this subject.

May I also join my honourable friend in extending congratulations to the mover and seconder of the Address. We may congratulate ourselves, as well as them, upon their accession to the Senate. Both these honourable gentlemen have had considerable experience in deliberative assemblies. My honourable friend who moved the Address (Hon. Mr. Proudfoot) was for a number of years identified with the Ontario Legislature as leader of the Opposition; and my honourable friend, who seconded the Address (Hon. Mr. Chapais) has long been a distinguished member of the Legislative Council of the Province of Quebec, and, I understand, continues to be associated with that Council. Their knowledge and experience in matters of legislation will be of great service in our various deliberations, and will be appreciated by this body. I hope they may long be spared to adorn the Senate by the services they will render to the country in this chamber.

My honourable friend who seconded the Address made some allusion to his predecessor (Hon. Mr. Choquette). We all have a very pleasant memory of that gentleman's presence in this Chamber. I had a letter from him a few days ago expressing regret at his parting company with the