

I believe that these suggestions of mine are implicit in the speech from the throne. Asking your patience, sir, and that of the house I should like to touch upon two points, one of which was not mentioned in the speech but both of which I regard as being of special importance. They both concern the man who has served in this latest war. On all sides of the house we are obviously determined that the best possible deal shall be given to him. I think that some confidence will be given to these men in the knowledge that in this house there are over thirty veterans of this war in addition to possibly many more who saw service in the great war that went before.

In the first, and lesser place, there are numbers of young men who after long service in our forces during this war have decided that their special aptitudes and special interests lie in continued membership in the armed forces. They were volunteers at the outset of the war. To-day they would like to be members of that relatively large permanent force which we expect Canada to maintain as a nation, if not to contribute to an international police force. To the best of my knowledge two at least of these services so far are not making it possible for the men so minded to remain in the service. I suspect that in consequence the cream of the crop, from the military point of view, is being lost.

In the second, and much greater place, I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the government give the utmost priority to provision for the housing of veterans. I am glad to see that subject mentioned in the speech from the throne. We know that constructive action is under way in cities, and we are hopeful that when the occasion comes a still broader programme will be announced. We are also hopeful that control over housing, the major emergency which Canada faces to-day, may be vested in one central agency. We would welcome an assurance that the benefits of the wartime housing policy will not be concentrated in the cities but will be dispersed among the smaller towns as well, where the problem of overcrowding is relatively equally severe.

In the meantime may I respectfully ask my colleagues in this house, including older and wiser members, to remember that the final victory is not much more than a week or so behind us and that while the transition from the old to the new is ahead of us, it cannot be accomplished overnight. At the same time we as members of this house must as legislators and public servants keep ever fresh in our minds a vision of our worthy calling. In this connection I should like to plagiarize a story that appeared recently in a popular magazine.

There were three stonemasons at work, and a passerby asked each of them what he was doing. The first replied, "I am cutting a stone." The second one said, "I am making a wall." The third replied, "I am helping to build a cathedral." And so I say, Mr. Speaker, that even those of us who are new here and back-benchers must keep in our minds the fact that we have the great privilege of being stonemasons in the building of a better social order.

Mr. J. G. LEOPOLD LANGLOIS (Gaspé) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the motion which has been moved with so much eloquence by my honourable friend the member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Benidickson).

I thank the honourable member for his very kind remarks, and wish to assure him of my most sincere friendship.

May I first be permitted, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate you for having been selected to preside over the debates of this house. Your high qualities and your past parliamentary experience give us the assurance that you will discharge that important function with dignity and impartiality.

I must also compliment the great Canadian who is our prime minister, the Right Honourable William Lyon Mackenzie King, on the splendid victory which he and his party have recently won. It must be quite comforting to a patriot like him to see an entire population put its trust in him at the most tragic time in its history and I hasten to add that never was such a comfort so well deserved.

I have often heard it said,—of course by political opponents of the prime minister,—that his greatest quality was that he knew how to choose able associates. His opponents perhaps find in this fact an excuse whereby to account for his outstanding success at the head of the Canadian nation for nearly twenty years and perhaps they also find in it a reason for trying to minimize the great work he has accomplished for this country.

To my mind, Mr. Speaker, a man must be great in his own right to be able to secure the cooperation of outstanding associates. That is the secret weapon of our prime minister; his personal greatness which, with his inborn humility, he is forever trying to conceal.

In a recent article entitled "Canada's Mackenzie King" published in the September issue of *The Readers' Digest*, Mr. Stanley High confirmed this opinion when he said:

Mackenzie King that is to say is one of the world's important figures.

He is also one of the least known.