

*The Address—Mr. A. Gauthier*

To our new sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II, we wish a long, peaceful and fruitful reign. The people of Canada remember with emotion the royal couple's memorable visit to this country last autumn. Throughout the land, our new sovereign radiated a charm, a graciousness, a distinction which have won her the same affection our people had for her distinguished father.

Viscount Alexander, our governor general since 1946, has been recalled to assume important duties in the government of his country. Canadians will long cherish the memory of this great soldier who carried out his duties with so much tact and courtesy. Before he left, he was made a member of the Privy Council of Canada; he thus maintains some links with our country. We wish him every success in the new task he is called upon to perform.

*(Translation):*

On January 24, 1952, the Canadian people learned with satisfaction that the King, acting upon the recommendation of our government, had chosen, to represent him in this country, the Right Hon. Vincent Massey, first Canadian citizen to hold this office. All Canada rejoices at this well-deserved honour which befalls our illustrious compatriot. The brilliant career of the chancellor of the university of Toronto marked him out for the highest office his native country can offer. Born into a family which has left its imprint on the history of Canadian industry, the Right Hon. Vincent Massey has held two of the most important appointments in our diplomatic service.

The wisdom, the skill and the understanding he displayed while representing our country in Washington had already attracted the attention of his compatriots, and his success as Canadian High Commissioner in London from 1935 to 1945 is well known.

Throughout his life, he strove to foster the development of higher education, as well as of the arts and cultural life in Canada. It was therefore quite natural that he should have been called upon to preside over the royal commission on national development in the arts, letters and sciences. His name will ever be linked with this cultural monument and with the work of Canadian unity in its diversity of culture, both English and French.

It was with legitimate pride that Canadians looked upon the honour conferred upon one of the most eminent sons of Canada and the government deserves to be congratulated on its excellent choice, because it has thus proved that Canada has become the adult nation she claims to be.

[Mr Gauthier (Lake St. John).]

Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay a tribute to one of our colleagues who has passed away since the last session, the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi, Mr. Henri Gosselin. For more than twenty years, both in the provincial and federal field, he served the people of Quebec and particularly the electors of Brome-Missisquoi. I wish to convey to Mrs. Gosselin and to her family our condolences. The death of our colleague has grieved us deeply. His memory will long remain with us.

There is one familiar face missing today in the house, that of Hon. Edouard Rinfret. His constant desire to help others had won him the friendship of all members. There is no doubt that he will be an honour to the bench as he was to this house, where he sat for so many years with such distinction.

The Right Hon. the Prime Minister has chosen to replace him the member for St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville (Mr. Cote).

In addition to his remarkable culture and the excellent reputation he has earned as a member of the bar, the new minister can boast of a wide experience. He is a director of the Rural Bar Association, charter member and president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce of St. Johns and Iberville, and in 1945 the taxpayers of St. Johns elected him to the office of mayor.

Because of the experience he has acquired both as a member of and adviser to various associations in his home town, as well as in his capacity as mayor of the city of St. Johns, from 1945 to 1949, he is very well qualified to look after the affairs of a department. When we consider the soundness of his judgment, his devotion to duty and his efficiency, all of which are generally acknowledged, the Prime Minister has undoubtedly made an excellent choice. Our whole rural population particularly rejoices at the appointment of one of its representatives to the cabinet.

I wish to mention also the appointment of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Dickey) as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Defence Production. In the opinion of all those who know him, the hon. member is marked out for a brilliant career in parliament. His very appointment to so important a department is in itself a tribute to his merit and qualifications.

I take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to say a few words about Lake St. John county, which I have the honour to represent in this house.

You have doubtless heard my predecessors speak, on many occasions, of the wonders of