

Hon. GUSTAVE BOYER (Translation): Honourable gentlemen, I appeal to your indulgence as members of this House, for it will be readily understood that it is not without considerable and justifiable emotion that I rise to second the motion so eloquently made by my honourable colleague, the representative of the county of Kent (Hon. Mr. McCoig). It was only a short time before I crossed the threshold of these precincts that I was informed that I should have to fulfil this duty.

But before entering further into the discussion, you will, honourable colleagues, I am sure, permit me to make a short digression, so as to discharge two very important duties.

The first is to thank the members of the Government cordially and sincerely for having promoted me to the Upper House of this country. If the Government alleges that the election of the new representative of the county of Rigaud is due to his personal merit, it would be more fitting and more believable to say that it is rather to honour, in my person, the agricultural class of which I have been the champion all my life, in more than one agrarian movement.

Another motive which I must gratefully acknowledge is the one which the Government had, of doing honour to the electoral district of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, for it is the first time that the senatorial seat of the county of Rigaud has been occupied by an inhabitant of that district. Before the present time it was worthily represented by the Honourable Charles Wilson from 1867 to 1877, the Honourable Joseph Rosaire Thibeau from 1878 to 1908, and the Honourable Arthur Boyer from 1909 to 1921. This time, it was to the county of Vaudreuil-Soulanges that this honour came, and the inhabitants of that district will understand how to appreciate this fine compliment to their cleverness.

Another duty devolves upon me, alas, this one is not of the same nature. It is with a full heart that I recall a recent sorrow; I refer to the sudden death of the one whose place I have the honour to fill. The late Honourable Arthur Boyer embodied within himself all the accomplishments of a perfect gentleman. Endowed with great scholarship and clear judgment, his advice was advantageous to those who took it. Generous, enthusiastic in efforts for any object of general interest, we always found him in the front rank, helping it on generously and effectively. Aristocratic by his whole education and the surroundings in

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which he had grown up, he nevertheless remained democratic in ideas and inclination. The people of Vaudreuil, among whom he had come to reside, had a special admiration for the late Mr. Boyer, and his death caused them deep and unanimous sorrow. Called to the Senate on the 28th of June, 1909, he represented the county of Rigaud in this Chamber for thirteen years with a dignity and punctiliousness worthy of high praise. In his newly-closed grave sleeps this virtuous man, this excellent citizen who sincerely loved his country. His memory will live on with those who knew and loved him. When I realize that it falls to me henceforward to represent the county of Rigaud and, in these precincts, to take the place of that distinguished man, I greatly fear that I shall not be equal to the task, and I wonder if I shall ever be able to accomplish it with as much dignity and skill as did the late lamented Mr. Boyer. However, honourable gentlemen, I will strive to walk in the steps of my predecessor and to respond worthily to the great evidence of confidence and of honour which the Government has just accorded me. I will strive to preserve, as I have always tried to do, the fair name of the county of Rigaud.

In the Speech from the Throne, among all the great questions which the Government proposes for our consideration, I have noted one especially, which treats of agriculture. I quote:

The decline of prices in farm products in 1921, as compared with the prices of previous years, has seriously affected agriculture in many parts of the Dominion. The ill-effects of this inevitable deflation have been emphasized by restricted markets and the absence of any corresponding reduction in the cost of production.

All the unrest of the day, whether in commerce, in industry, or in agriculture, finds its excuse in the war. It is the war, the cause of all evils, that is given as the final explanation of the grievances, the commercial distress or the unemployment which prevail in every part of the country. I have read, somewhere, that war is a necessary evil. Is that an axiom, or simply an argument to make men forget the horrors which it accumulates and the painful reverberations which continue long after its last hecatombs?

Whatever it is, it is very important that there should be an end to this evil; for to let things go on as they are would certainly lead to a national disaster. We are reinspired with confidence by the favourable attitude of the Government towards