

nected with Canadian affairs, justified the claims that they had made year after year to both Houses of Parliament.

In conclusion, I wish to add my compliments to the mover and the seconder of the Address. The new member of this House who seconded the Address showed skill and political sagacity beyond that possessed by most of us, as honourable members will realize if they read her address, for she knew that there was nothing in the Speech from the Throne to discuss, and she did not discuss it.

Hon. C. P. BEAUBIEN: Honourable senators, I should like to deal as briefly as possible with the first part of the Speech from the Throne, but before doing so I want to extend my sincere congratulations to the mover of the Address in Reply. I have been a member of this House for quite a few years, but I have rarely listened to language more dignified and more suitable for this Chamber; it was language of a style that probably many of us have long wished we had been able to acquire. I should like as well to congratulate the Government upon the nomination of the honourable senator who seconded the Address. There has been a great departure from the constitutional traditions of this House, but if anything could comfort those who thought this departure was too great, it was, without any doubt, the excellence of the choice that was made in the appointment of Hon. Senator Wilson. There could not have been a happier selection of a representative of the women of this country and of the many excellent qualities that distinguish them. May I congratulate the honourable senator on her maiden speech? I should like to express particularly the appreciation of those of us who come from the Province of Quebec for the compliment paid to the French language in her skilful and pleasing remarks. In proving her qualifications to occupy a seat in this Chamber Hon. Senator Wilson has given further evidence of her graciousness.

I freely confess that I was somewhat surprised at the first part of the Speech from the Throne. It sounded to me as if it should have been written in the past tense. A great proclamation has been made by the Government of the prosperous times that we are enjoying throughout the land. The honourable leader on this side of the House has stated briefly the conditions that exist in his province at the present time. If honourable senators were to go to Montreal and visit municipal refuges for homeless people who every night beg for a bed and something to eat, they would not agree with the Speech from the Throne. If honourable members

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could be present at meetings of city councils where there are discussions of the pressing need to go ahead with public works in order to find jobs for those who have no bread; if honourable members could hear the report that was made recently by Alderman Shubert, who says that not for years has there been so much suffering as there is at present in the city of Montreal; if I could show honourable members the able-bodied men who are organizing by the hundreds to beg for food from door to door, the difficulty of reconciling the existing situation with the Speech from the Throne would be evident at once. An urgent meeting of mayors of different cities was held in Winnipeg for the purpose of organizing some relief. The acuteness of the situation is plain to everybody, except, I am sorry to say, the Minister of Labour. This is the more regrettable as he is in a better position to help.

When I listened to the Speech from the Throne I was thinking of the queer effect that it would have on the hungry men who went from door to door, humiliated because they had to beg for bread. That condition by no means exists only in my province and in Montreal. Just allow me to quote a newspaper that certainly cannot be suspected in the present instance of political bias. This is what the Citizen of this city has said:

No use coming here for work from outside; never before in the history of the city has the Union Mission, the hostel for indigent men, been so crowded at this season of the year as it is to-day. The officials are becoming alarmed, as each day brings in its quota of homeless, hungry and penniless men.

Will anybody doubt the good faith of this paper? What is happening in Montreal and in Ottawa is repeated, unfortunately, throughout the land. What news do we get from Winnipeg? What news do we get from Edmonton? What reports do we get from Vancouver, where hundreds of men rely upon municipal authorities for aid because they have no bread? So, after four years of great abundance, a period of abundance greater perhaps than we have ever had in this country, this prosperity peters out in one night. How can one explain the abrupt transition from apparent prosperity to stagnation and want? That is the question that I want to bring forcibly before this House, if I can. You have abundance, apparently you have great prosperity, and in one moment it is gone. It means this, that the prosperity you had was much more apparent than real. When a man works very hard, but makes very little, he has hardly any chance to lay aside a penny for a rainy day. Our people, it is true, have worked hard, and you have wonderful figures