

The Address—Mr. Stephenson

attain to high office in this country, that they should take cognizance of the actions of those people who would attempt to bring dictatorship to this country and deprive our children of the great opportunities they have.

I should like also to congratulate the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew). I believe it is becoming more widely known every day that he is a great statesman and a great defender of freedom. I am sure that in the near future he will attain to the great position to which I have just referred.

One thing is noticeable this year—the continuity of the debate on the address. It will be remembered that in recent years the debate was interrupted every few days in order to permit the government to bring down bits of legislation which they claimed were of an emergency nature. In my opinion those bits of legislation were brought down for no other purpose than to distract the people and to divert from the government the criticism being leveled at it. This year instead of bits of legislation being brought down we find that cabinet ministers are being injected into the debate in an effort to redeem the government and to make excuses for their sins. However, I am sure that that has not had a great deal of effect on the country.

I was much interested in listening to the fine reading by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin). It was a reading and I understand that copies had already been given to the press in order that they might not miss anything. I noticed the great effort the minister made to pat himself on the back, so much so that I thought he might break his arm, when he told the country what a wonderful job he had done with our money. Someone said that it had been the provinces that had done the good job, but the minister said, "with our money." He should have said the hard-earned money of the taxpayers.

I should like to pay a tribute to the press of Canada. I think they try to present without bias the different views on political issues. In particular I should like to pay a tribute to two publications in my riding. The *Port Hope Guide* is a daily paper that has been published since 1831. *The Canadian Statesman* is a weekly paper which has won distinction across Canada. It has been awarded the national editorial trophy and the certificate of merit for the past two years, and this in competition with all the weeklies in Canada. I think that is a record to be proud of.

It has been said by the Liberal party that this paper has considerable political bias. I will admit that it has seen fit to support the policies of the Progressive Conservative

[Mr. Stephenson.]

party, but as an indication that it is not biased I should like to refer to the fine picture of the former Prime Minister of Canada which it published over the following statement:

Honoured today as Canada's greatest statesman, crowned with the record of the longest tenure in office of any Prime Minister in the long history of the empire and commonwealth, Prime Minister Mackenzie King retired from his high office on Monday, November 15, 1948.

Then they went on to state that every Canadian would wish him well-deserved leisure and congratulate him upon his long years of service. I do not think that a paper which would publish a statement like that could be said to be altogether politically biased. Another political party in my riding has claimed that this paper is politically biased. The C.C.F. party have also claimed this paper to be biased because it does not support their policies. When they could not get support, the leaders of that party had notices posted in the factories forbidding their supporters to buy this paper. This is the first time to my knowledge that any political party has boycotted the freedom of the press. I would say that those are communist tactics.

Mr. Fraser: Trying to suppress the truth.

Mr. Stephenson: I hear some remark.

Mr. Fraser: Trying to suppress the truth; that is what they were trying to do.

Mr. Stephenson: In order to show that this paper is a staunch supporter of agriculture I should like to quote some of the articles that appeared in a recent issue with regard to the achievements of farmers in the county I have the honour to represent. The articles which refer to the royal winter fair read as follows:

W. Carruthers Takes Apple Prizes at Royal
Wilfred D. Carruthers, Bowmanville, surprised the usual large exhibitors of apples at the royal winter fair by capturing five prizes on his small displays of Spy and McIntosh varieties. His ribbons included two firsts, two seconds and a third.

Here is another heading:

Reserve champion for oats goes to Garnet Rickard.

He is from Bowmanville. Here is an excerpt from an article in the same paper:

Maurice Baker, Hampton, fitted and showed the grand champion and junior champion shorthorn bull.

Then there is part of another article to which I wish to refer:

Latest lists received show Fred Trewin, Nestleton, winning the junior championship on a Tamworth sow.

The junior Durham county team had great success at the royal winter fair, winning one first, six seconds, one third and one fourth in recent years, and many other winners whom time does not permit me to mention.