

have contributed to the present world situation. It indicated, too, that the hon. member had given careful consideration to the policies which may be necessary to meet the situation which faces us. No finer introduction could have been made to the consideration and discussion of the great problems with which in the present session we shall be obliged to deal.

The same might be said of the speech of the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Jutras). His, too, was an excellent introduction to the consideration of questions we shall have to take up this session. The hon. member sustained the high position enjoyed by his constituency in the public life of Canada. In a way Provencher is typical of the whole of Canada. It is a constituency standing midway between the Atlantic and the Pacific. Its population is divided almost evenly between English-speaking and French-speaking citizens. Moreover, through the course of the years since confederation, it has enjoyed representation of a varied character. I need not remind hon. members that at one time Conservative opinion in that constituency was represented by no less distinguished a person than Sir George Etienne Cartier. I need not remind those who, like myself, are inclined to be more or less radical, that Louis Riel was also elected to represent that constituency. I need not add that through the years the constituency has been represented by many distinguished Liberals. To do justice to a constituency so representative, that it is practically a microcosm of our whole dominion, is no small task. I would say to the hon. member who, by the way, is one of the youngest members in the house, that in the manner in which he spoke on Friday alike in French and in English he reflected great credit not only upon himself but upon his constituency.

With respect to the speeches of both hon. members there is one significant fact which I hope all of us may find it possible to keep in mind during our discussions at this time and in this place. The two hon. members are representative of minorities in their respective provinces. The hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George is of the minority in race and religion in the city of Montreal and the province of Quebec. The hon. member for Provencher is of the minority in race and religion in the province of Manitoba. These two gentlemen made a similar appeal to this House of Commons. Each made a strong appeal for toleration, and above all for unity in this dominion of Canada. In that appeal for toleration, in that appeal for unity, I believe they rendered the greatest service that could be rendered in addresses given at the opening of a new session of parliament.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

I noticed that their speeches were eloquent of that feeling of harmony and goodwill which, despite the existence of war in the world to-day, fortunately continues to be characteristic of the spirit of our country.

In the nature of things we will be forced to discuss, probably pretty warmly, many questions which will come before us. I am sure, however, that hon. members will realize that at this time, perhaps as never before, each and every one will be called upon to exercise a measure of restraint in what we say concerning our own problems, and an even greater measure of restraint with reference to what we say about other nations and their problems.

May I come now to the remarks of my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson). Let me say that I do not intend to be critical of what he has said. He has fallen into the error, of which I have been guilty frequently, of trying to take up too many things at one time. I can be sympathetic with him in that regard. I feel that his address would have been improved had he devoted more of it to the immediate world situation and Canada's effort in relation thereto, and foregone taking up so great a variety of topics. He might have waited until a little later in the session to deal with some of them.

His first criticism was of the speech from the throne. I was not at all surprised at that because I fully expected it. Had I made a long speech—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. MACKENZIE KING: —or, rather, had I advised His Excellency to make a long speech, I am sure my hon. friend would have taken me severely to task and told me that I had not learned from experience. On the other hand, because the speech has the merit of brevity, he now says, to use his own words, that "it falls short in everything else by which we measure what a speech from the throne should be." This afternoon my hon. friend showed great admiration for Britain. It would be a strange thing if any speaker to-day or at any time had not the strongest admiration for Britain. I share all his admiration for Britain, but I believe that perhaps I have a greater admiration for Canada than he has. I do not mean that my admiration for Canada is greater than is my admiration for Britain. I mean that on the score of admiration I see no reason for drawing a line between our respective loyalties.

I refer to what my hon. friend has said about Britain because in thinking of the