

*The Address—Mr. Harrison*

Laing), who gave such a masterly address, also deserves commendation. These were two outstanding examples of fluency in our two official languages. I do not think I have heard anything better at any time. Of course, many great speeches have been given in this house.

I understand that one member who has been here for many years but who, unfortunately, is not at his desk this evening, the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot), displays a great ability in the art of oratory. He was once able, while sitting on the opposition benches, to secure a railroad station for his town. However, I believe the two new members I have mentioned did a great honour to all the new members generally, and I was surprised that the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Hansell) should mention the fact that not many of the new members had spoken. Three or four years from now, possibly, he will be more concerned if one of those gentlemen descends into his riding.

I should like to thank the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Cavers) for his gift of peaches. I wonder, however, whether he is setting a precedent; we may arrive some morning to find a wet tuna on our desk, a present of the hon. member for Lunenburg (Mr. Winters); from the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank)—nuts. I was pleased with one part of the speech of the hon. member for Vancouver South. I thought he made a nice gesture to the minister from his own province, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Mayhew). Coming, as I do, from Saskatchewan, where we have raised some very prominent ministers of agriculture, we make no apologies for the minister we have at the head of the Saskatchewan delegation. I think you will agree with me that of the great ministers of agriculture which Saskatchewan has usually produced, the present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), in the most trying of times, has proved himself to be the greatest that Canada has ever had.

I should like to compliment the members of this house. Many of them, I am sure, have given up more remunerative positions in order to serve their country. We have never had a greater example of this in Canada than that of our present Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent). Last night I had a bad dream in which I thought the leader of the Liberal forces in the other place made some remarks of that kind. Although I had them written down previously, I thought that possibly he was stealing my thunder.

As a new member from Saskatchewan, I have watched with much interest and have listened attentively to the impressive procedures of this house. On every hand I have

[Mr. Harrison.]

been confronted with the contribution of those Canadians who use the French language as their mother tongue; and on every hand, and especially in this house, they add to the decor and dignity of our surroundings. It is fitting that an English-speaking member from the west should pay this just and true tribute to those of French descent in the east. We have here in these two great races the basis of a culture and a unity which no one can match. Indeed, it is already manifest in the unparalleled growth of Canada to recognized fame as a world power. Oddly enough, we ourselves have been the last to recognize this growth. The first official stirrings are seen in Bill No. 2 now before the house. We would never have achieved this place among the nations without the leaders of vision in both our great races who held before them one goal and one goal only, namely unity. I refer of course to those great leaders, the Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I trust that this house, in all its deliberations, will make Canadian unity pre-eminent above all other considerations.

*(Translation):*

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that I do not speak French correctly but I have a great deal of respect for the gallant race that has contributed to Canada's greatness.

Out of consideration for this language, one of the two officially recognized in the country, and for the French-speaking electors of my constituency, I wish to assure my colleagues in the house that my foremost aim will be to foster the still greater improvement of the relations which now exist between our two races in order that Canada may become strong and united.

*(Text):*

The riding I have the honour to represent, Mr. Speaker, a new riding formed under the last redistribution, is the riding of Meadow Lake, which is a rather large one in the northwest corner of Saskatchewan, stretching along the Alberta boundary for some 450 miles north to the Northwest Territories, and it is about 125 miles in width. Travel by plane is required in order to cover the northern part of it. As the constituency is of such great length, there is a great diversity of effort among its people. In the south end we have a grain belt; in the centre we have mining, fishing and some production of timber; and, in the far north, I think time will show that we have one of the greatest deposits of uranium to be found on this continent.

From some of our Saskatchewan members you have heard a rather doleful story, especially from some of the southern Saskatche-