

*The Budget—Mr. Cauchon*

and many trying days. Perseverance has been rewarded by success. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier paid us a visit during his 1911 election campaign, at which time he won us over by the charm of his silver tongue, the great statesman was able to see that our district was in full activity and well on the way to success in the various fields of industry and trade. While travelling through the fertile countryside and the pleasant towns of Beauharnois county, he did not fail to show his just appreciation for the excellent work done by the farmers and the townsmen. But how surprised would have been the great and illustrious Liberal leader of 1911 if he could have accompanied our present leader in his triumphant tour of the same constituency in 1949. The enormous and very real progress achieved would have surely held the attention of the great Laurier.

For, from that day on, our fellow citizens have followed, practically without a break, the ascending road to success and prosperity, which, according to Virgil, can best be attained through unrelenting toil. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I repeat that I am really proud of the county I represent today, thanks to the confidence placed in me by my fellow citizens.

The people of Beauharnois constituency are peaceful and hard-working, true to their ancestral traditions. They have inherited the strength and valour characteristic of our forefathers, discoverers and pioneers of noble and pure stock. In different parts of the constituency, especially in the towns of Salaberry de Valleyfield and Beauharnois as well as in Chateauguay and many rural centres, there are people of different nationalities, French-Canadians and Anglo-Canadians, living and working side by side the whole year round in the most complete harmony. That feeling of brotherhood, which ensures good understanding and harmony between the two races, is really to be admired.

It is a well-known fact that our various ethnic groups live in the greatest harmony, showing the unity of their views in their daily relations. This fact constitutes an excellent and most important factor of success which makes life more interesting and more heartening and greatly increases the performance of all in striving towards a common ideal of comfort and prosperity. That is an outstanding example which I deem it my duty to mention in the house since it is in harmony with the great virtue

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of charity, the main basis of the democratic ideal, a virtue which is so useful and so necessary today especially, to strengthen us in the face of present dangers. The harmony existing among the people of our riding deserves public recognition and should be brought to the attention of the entire nation since it constitutes such a powerful means of protecting the population from class struggles and of consolidating at the same time the entire social structure by upholding peace and security.

That union and cohesion of our people has brought quite wonderful results in our riding. Whenever there is a good purpose to be served in the matter of social welfare, such concerted effort becomes conspicuous and makes for the success of the various campaigns. In each case, our citizens have realized where their responsibilities lay and they have been equal to the task.

In due course, the city people as well as the farmers have shown that they knew something about business and that they were alive to their duties as Canadians, by answering generously to the call of their country at a time when all our forces had to be directed towards a common goal. Thus, our people have greatly contributed to making every loan drive a success, conscious as they were of the importance of such contribution for the safeguarding of our most sacred rights.

During the last war, as in the war of 1914-1918, the constituency of Beauharnois made a fine effort. A great number of recruits enlisted in His Majesty's armed forces. Various plants, on the other hand, worked on the production of war equipment and munitions. The same spirit of co-operation prevailed amongst related organizations such as civilian defence. All in all, worth finds and asserts itself. This is true of citizens of our constituency, whenever a generous effort, a helpful hand is required for a good cause.

In the constituency of Beauharnois there is a power plant noted not only in the district but throughout the country. It is an asset provided by the St. Lawrence river, the development of which is in the blueprint stage. It will contribute to the fuller use of the water power of this great river.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot resist the impulse to congratulate the Minister of Transport for the magnificent statement he has made on several