

... he will have the support of a loyal and united party, and he may be assured that he enjoys in the country a popular confidence won by his courageous enunciation of a national policy and the demonstration of an unmistakable determination to prosecute such policy to the end that greater economic development shall set the Dominion's course to new advancement and hasten material prosperity, and in lines that will be parallel and in unison with a sound and broadminded plan directed to increase trade with the empire. With the Prime Minister's great capacity for work goes an equally great capacity to get things done. He does not move in a circle, but marches direct to the goal. Depending upon these qualities, Canadians have a firm belief that Mr. Bennett will accomplish successfully and in due season the great task that lies in front of him.

Mr. V. C. PORTEOUS (North Grey): Mr. Speaker, on rising to second the motion for an address in reply to the speech from the throne, if you will permit me, I would like first to touch briefly on a few matters which affect me personally. The first intimation I had that I would be associated with this motion, was that I would be the mover, but I am indeed pleased to have the opportunity of stepping aside to give to the French speaking members of this house and the French speaking people of this Dominion, whom I most highly respect, their just and proper rights according to our customary procedure.

I appreciate to the fullest extent the honour the government have conferred on me in having chosen me to be associated with this motion and, while I feel entirely unworthy, I will try to perform my duty to the best of my ability having had from both sides of the house the assurance of a patient hearing. I am proud to be the representative of North Grey and to be able, as such, to pass on to that constituency any honour that may result from the fact that for the first time in Canadian history a representative of that riding has been chosen to second the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

We have in the constituency of North Grey a riding which, while not rich in the traditions of any one party, has sent many honest, upright representatives to both houses, from both parties. It is a constituency which has at heart the welfare not only of North Grey but of the entire Dominion and which has contributed of its manhood and womanhood to the upbuilding throughout Canada, especially in the western provinces, of agricultural, industrial, marine and business life. I share with the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) the honour of representing what is in many respects the leading agricultural county in the province of Ontario.

I am proud also in this capacity to represent the farmers of this Dominion, for while we are at present in a period of depression and feeling it keenly, we are not downhearted. We all know that whatever may happen in the future, agriculture is still the basic industry of Canada. I am glad to have been chosen as a farmer because it goes to show me, and the people of this Dominion, that the farmers will receive just recognition from this government.

We have been welcomed to our duties, Mr. Speaker, at a time of great world economic depression. May we fulfil those duties having ever in mind the hardship that is evident, especially among our labouring classes and our farmers; may we discharge those duties having the welfare of our Canadian citizens at heart, particularly those citizens who at this time and as a result of the depression, are feeling distress, hoping that by sane measures and just administration Canada may be restored to that condition of prosperity which a country so rich in natural resources, should enjoy. We will be called upon to consider means and measures which we believe will bring back prosperity to Canada. We believe there are measures which may be put in force that will have the desired effect; we believe in a country such as Canada, with its agricultural, mineral, transportation, power and industrial wealth, there should not be the depression that exists at the present moment.

For the purpose of dealing promptly and effectually with the situation the government called a special emergency session of parliament last September when tariff measures were passed which we believed would improve conditions. The action taken was not merely a revival of the historic national policy of Sir John A. Macdonald, but rather it was the fulfilment of that policy. Never during the lifetime of Canada's great Conservative prime minister did protection receive the wholesale test which parliament gave it last September. The result has been the revival of industry. Many industries which had closed their doors have again commenced to operate, and many others which were running only part time are now operating to capacity. The restoration of buying power to people who previously had been out of the market has reacted on Canadian industry, which feels not only the stimulus from without due to the elimination of foreign competition, but also from within, due to the increased purchasing power of Canadian workmen. This has been done without increasing the price to the consumer,