

Sir Thomas Chapais was for 56 years a member of the Quebec Legislative Council and for 25 years a member of the Senate for the Grandville division.

His father's close ties with Cartier and Langevin introduced him at an early age to the political problems of his time. They gave him confidence in the destiny of the Canadian nation and made him an invincible apostle of unity amongst the various groups that make it up.

In the parliamentary field he distinguished himself, especially as leader in the Council from 1936 to 1939, and from 1944 until his death. His firm and persuasive eloquence, his graciousness and his proverbial courtesy won him general respect and assisted him a great deal through difficulties which younger and more aggressive men would have found insuperable.

However, Sir Thomas Chapais' name will survive chiefly through his historical works. As an historian he always attempted to serve the truth and to interpret the facts in their true light. He never hesitated to demonstrate clearly the generous feelings of the first English governors of Canada and the ensuing advantages for the general welfare and unity of the country.

The reading of his *History of Canada Under British Rule* in eight volumes is of great interest to all Canadians. This fine work is permeated throughout with the impartiality which he sought to give it.

The memory of Sir Thomas Chapais will endure, not only in Quebec but in the whole of Canada.

May I also recall the memory of Mr. P. A. Choquette, who represented the Grandville division in the Canadian Senate before Sir Thomas Chapais. This doughty warrior remains the only Canadian nominated to the Senate by the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

An important portion of the Speech from the Throne is devoted to our country's foreign policy. These questions of international policy are among those to which the present government has rightly given great importance during the past twelve months.

As a matter of fact Canadian citizens realize more and more every day that these are matters of considerable interest and they follow with great attention the discussion and the often difficult solution of the problems which they give rise to.

Canada is as yet a young country, and it has only just recently acquired a foreign policy. However, it is nevertheless true that it now holds an enviable place among the nations of the world, the first among the middle powers,

and that, through the dignity and quality of its representatives, it has won the respect of the great powers.

The honour of having been the forerunner and initiator of our foreign policy belongs to the Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King. It is he who has led it through all its difficulties.

It would be good to remind ourselves that we acquired the right to responsible government barely a hundred years ago. But we need only look back over the past 25 years to realize with what vision the Prime Minister has managed to lead this country from stage to stage along the road of independence within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Canada alone decides what relations it will have with the nations of the world. Canada alone directs its economic relations with foreign countries. Canada alone, and solely in its own interest, decides what commercial relations it will have beyond its own borders.

The important part which our Canadian delegations have played at the conferences of San Francisco, London, Paris and New York; the wise words and appropriate advice of the Right Hon. Mr. King and the Right Hon. Mr. St. Laurent, who headed these delegations, have filled the hearts of all Canadians with great pride. May I add that this voice of one of their most distinguished leaders is particularly pleasant to the ears of French Canadians.

We now have eight high commissioners' offices, twelve embassies, four legations, numerous missions and several consulates. A number of nations have accredited representatives in Canada. All these Canadian representatives, men of great personal worth, work together, under the general direction of the government, to make our beautiful country better known, with its products, its resources, its various advantages. They foster those commercial agreements which are for the benefit of all parts of the country. They never cease to help solve international questions of private concern in the interest of our countrymen. They appear everywhere as the spokesmen for a Canada that has no greater wish than the development of its international relations and of its foreign markets.

The part played by Canada in the late world conflict has given it, with good reason, a world-wide reputation, along with the friendship and admiration of those nations whose purpose was to crush those who planned to reduce the world to slavery. These sacrifices would have been useless and the life-blood of Canada's