

The Address—Mr. Boisvert

Forty years ago, the first three were still navigable for several miles. The soil is rich, agriculture being the main industry. Farms are neat while the people are hard-working and honest.

The riding has only one town, that of Nicolet, which is renowned for its religious teaching institutions; among others, mention must be made of the 150-year-old seminary of Nicolet and of the convent of the Assumption Sisters. Since their inauguration, these two institutions have generously devoted themselves to the higher education of the boys and girls of that district.

In my student days, priest teachers, many of whom had attended great European universities, were being paid \$100 a year. The sisters of the Assumption are giving hundreds of young girls the very fullest of trainings for no other consideration than the regard of their pupils. Those nuns are in charge of schools in several towns in Ontario. They teach fine arts, literature, mathematics, et cetera. They are training young girls many of whom play important parts in our Canadian community.

Nicolet seminary has produced three bishops now living—Bishops Courchesne, Mélançon and Gagnon—several deceased bishops who are honoured figures in our religious history, several statesmen who have honoured their country and numerous writers who were taught there the art of writing in verse and in prose.

I take pleasure today in paying tribute to the people of my constituency and to those educational institutions, as well as to the many other civil and religious institutions that are building our whole future on the goodness of the earth, love for the land and the poetry of a truly beautiful nature. Farms filled with sunshine and children, a happy, calm and proud people, that is the country we must love and praise. Such is the people the Prime Minister first had in mind when he chose me, among many others better able than I am, to open the deliberations of this house. From a thousand that they were in 1760, our people now number 35,000. Sons have replaced fathers on the ancestral farm and nearly all are direct descendants of the first settlers who as vassals, under the French dominion, occupied the numerous seigniories granted by the King of France and parcelled out of the territory of the former counties of Nicolet and Yamaska.

I should like the government to show more and more interest in the good rural population of this country. A great business man

and former president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company stated in Toronto in 1935, and I quote:

However, any economic progress, not only in Canada but anywhere in the world, depends essentially upon the development of agriculture which is truly the basis of human civilization.

Family life and agriculture are therefore the two factors best suited to ensure the happiness of mankind, the abatement of strife and the revival of our civilization, which two world wars and a depression have threatened with subservience to those dark forces that would exploit human beings as tools of an all-powerful state.

Dictators have built their forces on fear. They did not concern themselves with politics. Politics is the art of adapting people to constant world changes by means of well-ordered legislation. Democracy consists in using the many and flexible ways offered by the country's constitution to ensure the common weal. The art of government is a difficult one, requiring moderation, caution and wisdom, especially when nations are facing problems which could likely change the course of history and the way of life of the free peoples of the world.

This statement leads me to congratulate the government for the measures it intends to introduce during this session.

Never since confederation has more important legislation been submitted for the approval of parliament. The main portion of it comprises three parts.

1. Abolition of appeals to the privy council.
2. The right of the Canadian parliament to amend its constitution with respect to all matters within its jurisdiction, except in the matter of the constitutional rights of provinces, the use of French and English, and education.
3. Consultation with the provinces with a view to amending the constitution, through a bill passed by the parliament of Canada, as far as their respective constitutional rights are concerned. It is the obvious road that leads to the absolute independence of the Canadian nation. It bears the mark of the Canadianism of our Prime Minister. There will be deep satisfaction in all parts of the country that the government is determined, not to sever historical and constitutional bonds, but rather to put Canada on an equal footing with the leading nations of the world: the United States, Great Britain and France.

Since 1939 the government of our country has made history more than it has indulged in politics, and the present Prime Minister