

just read, may I point out two recent happenings which first of all constitute official recognition for the many services rendered by one of our most prominent colleagues, while at the same time enhancing the prestige of this honourable chamber.

(Text):

The Honourable Walter M. Aseltine, Leader of the Government in the Senate, has been appointed a member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada. I am sure that all the members of this honourable house share my view when I say that this is a reward well deserved by him and an honour that reflects on the Senate.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: It has been too long delayed.

Hon. Mr. Méthot: May I be permitted to offer to this honourable gentleman our most sincere congratulations and best wishes.

(Translation):

To begin with, may I express my personal satisfaction that those who direct the deliberations of this honourable chamber are in their accustomed places and in their usual good health and spirits—which I trust will remain with them throughout the session. I refer, of course, to our distinguished and affable Speaker, who continues to add lustre to the Senate whether he is presiding here or representing us beyond the walls of Parliament. I refer also to the Leader of the Opposition, whose kindness, competence and unflinching courtesy to all honourable senators have won him the admiration of all.

The Speech from the Throne announces first that Her Majesty the Queen Mother and Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Edinburgh and the Princess Royal will come to Canada next summer.

We have all been very pleased to learn that we will be honoured with those three visits in 1962, especially in the case of the Queen Mother who earned the admiration and respect of the whole democratic world for the fine part she played during the difficult years that we experienced.

I am convinced that the Canadian people will show once again their undying affection for all members of the Royal Family.

On behalf of this honourable house, may I extend to them our heartiest welcome.

In listening to the Speech from the Throne, we were reminded that our Government deals constantly in a practical and active way with all problems regarding the present international situation.

Canada is playing an increasingly important part at the United Nations, within NATO and during the visits or meetings of high ranking officials from allied countries; we are rightly pleased by the role played by our Prime Minister and our Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Since peace is the foremost aim of our country, the Government's intention to support any international agreement concerning controlled disarmament, as expressed in the Speech from the Throne, will certainly bring joy to all Canadians.

Last September, my kind friend, the honourable Mr. Hugessen, and I had the honour of being chosen to represent the Senate at the conference of the British Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held in London. We were first given the opportunity of visiting all the major places in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and even in the Guernsey Islands. Everywhere, we were treated with the utmost courtesy and hospitality. Personally, I had the privilege of discovering for myself a country of astonishing beauty and splendour.

In Scotland, after we had visited the historical sites of Edinburgh, also its world-famous university, we were taken into that part of the country where Walter Scott and Robert Burns found their inspiration.

In London, our convention was officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen, and we witnessed a ceremony which we will never forget.

That conference at which all the Commonwealth countries were represented and expressed their views has made us aware of their views, of their fears about the international situation, of their needs and, at the same time, of their hopes.

We were given the opportunity to get a better idea of the close ties that link all those countries, their common desire to get along together not only economically but also from a military standpoint, in order to protect mankind against a war that, with modern inventions, could wipe out our civilization.

To all those who have had knowledge of the requests of the underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa, and elsewhere, the continuation of our foreign aid program remains a necessity.

Personally, I sought impartial information on the European Economic Community and endeavoured to make at least some inquiries about the nature and the implications of that treaty signed in Rome on March 25, 1957 between Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.