

*The Address—Mr. W. J. Browne*

There are certain local matters that we are asking the government to consider. There is a river that needs to be lowered at its mouth, and a breakwater is needed in front of island No. 2. But these matters will be brought up later. At this time I want to congratulate all hon. members who were fortunate enough to be elected. I should like also to congratulate the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew), the leader of the C.C.F. (Mr. Coldwell) and the leader of the Social Credit group (Mr. Low) on the splendid speeches they made at the commencement of this debate. They have shown the rest of us that long speeches are useless. When they were finished they sat down, which I think is in keeping with good parliamentary procedure. I thank you for your courtesy.

**Mr. W. J. Browne (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, as this is the first time that representatives of Newfoundland have taken seats in this honourable house, and as we have been welcomed in the speech from the throne, I do not think it is inappropriate that one of us should address the house upon the general issues now under discussion. Everyone has seemed so genuinely glad to have us here; and, as we have been treated with such universal kindness and courtesy, I would deem it ungracious if some one of us did not make suitable acknowledgment of that treatment. I am deeply conscious of the unique honour that has been bestowed upon me and, if I may say so, it is somewhat ironical that I, who fought confederation as long as I could, should be the one to whom this honour and privilege have been given.

I hold no brief for the other hon. members from Newfoundland who sit in this house, but I believe that I speak what must be in their minds when I say that we are all impressed with the elaborate arrangements that have been made by the people of Canada for their legislators. This beautiful Gothic structure, so medieval in its architectural style and so modern in its appointments, must be one of the glories of Canada, where legislation should be brought forward and fully discussed and passed in excellent style. It should be regarded as the highest honour that can come to any man to be selected to come here and help pass the laws of his country. It should be his proudest ambition and his fondest hope that by the excellence of her laws Canada should become ever more worthy of the respect and admiration of the other nations of the world.

During the past few days we new members have witnessed the zeal and the interest and the fervour displayed by the older members of the house. While it arouses in our timid hearts a feeling of envy, yet I think it also

stirs up in us a spirit of emulation of their behaviour. I should like to congratulate you, Sir, upon your elevation to the high office that you hold. A couple of days ago we were presented with great volumes of rules and standing orders that could not help but strike terror into our hearts. So much so that we would have been too timid to address you if it were not for the fact that we have been greeted with such charitable encouragement by the members of all parties. For this we are truly grateful.

In accordance with the long-established practice, I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Boisvert) and the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Laing) on the fine speeches they made when carrying out a most difficult task. As I listened to the hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska I found that what he had to say was most interesting. I trust that other hon. members found his remarks stimulating because in my opinion he put forward the true opinion which every hon. member ought to have of the importance of agriculture to this country.

Agriculture is the most important industry in Canada. The ideal which he expressed, and which found an echo in the statement of the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge), that people should follow agriculture, not as a profitable and large industry, as it is becoming in so many places, but as a way of living, is, it seems to me, the proper one, one which has received the highest praise from no less an authority than His Holiness the Pope.

Since, unfortunately, agriculture has been neglected in Newfoundland, and as I have advocated the fostering of agriculture for so many years and written many articles about it in our local magazines, I trust it will be one of the first tasks of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) to see to it that as soon as possible some of these fine experimental stations that are operating in the other provinces of Canada will be set up in Newfoundland, in order that our people may have demonstrated clearly to their eyes how in agriculture they can find a way to a happy and comfortable form of living.

As I listened to the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Laing) speak of his beautiful province I dreamed of a land where it was always afternoon, but when I heard the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Hansell) speak of the fogs and the heat waves that repelled him when he visited there, and yesterday when I heard of the vicious pests and the curious diseases that afflicted the fruits of that province, I felt that after all Newfoundland was not such a bad place.