

to the South. Very few monarchs in the world enjoy, to the same extent, the affection of their subjects.

Everywhere, during this historic visit, our Queen and her husband were the object of enthusiastic and spontaneous demonstrations. I was particularly happy to learn that, according to many observers, it was in one of the cities of the province of Quebec, namely Three Rivers, that they received the most cordial welcome.

Her Majesty, indeed, has always shown the French-speaking population of Canada such understanding and friendship that she has won the heart of each one of us.

I would like, today, to wish our Sovereign good health. We all somewhat share the royal family's anxiety on the eve of a great event which, with the grace of God, will bring her a great joy, a joy in which we will be happy to join.

I must now confess, honourable senators, that it is not without a deep emotion that I rise to propose the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. Just a few days ago, I was still a member of the other house. And now I have been conferred the signal honour, not only of becoming a member of the Senate, but also of proposing the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

May I give public expression to the gratitude I feel towards the person who has shown such confidence in me. It is most sincerely that I wish to thank the Right Honourable the Prime Minister for this great honour. In a few short years, the leader of the Canadian Government has become one of our ranking statesmen.

The responsibility placed on my shoulders is a heavy one indeed and if I have accepted it, honourable colleagues, it is because I know the atmosphere of good will and cordiality which pervades this Chamber and I am sure that you will not refuse me your indulgence, which I most humbly crave.

You may rest assured that I will endeavour to represent the electoral division of Rouge-mont as well as I can. I might add that I have long had a connection with that division, my mother having been born at St. Cesaire. Moreover, chance has ordained that this electoral division be represented at the Legislative Council of my province by a former member for the county of Labelle.

I would now like to pay tribute to His Excellency the Governor General, Major General Georges P. Vanier who, on the 1st of August last, succeeded the Right Honourable Vincent Massey. It was immediately

upon her return from Canada that our gracious Sovereign was pleased to call His Excellency to this high function. He therefore became the second Canadian and the first French Canadian to represent the Crown in Canada and Madame Vanier, the first Canadian chatelaine of Rideau Hall.

The appointment of Major General Vanier, as we know, gave rise to most flattering comment on all sides. In the Paris newspaper *La Croix*, Wladimir d'Ormesson, of the French Academy, wrote that this appointment "testified once again to the care with which the Crown looks after the interests of each member of the commonwealth, to the realism and noble feelings with which the Queen fulfils this key function which is one of the oddities, as well as one of the safeguards, of our modern world".

"And the name Vanier", continued Mr. d'Ormesson, "is dear not only to all Canadians, but also to all Frenchmen. Major General Vanier is one of the highest, purest and most respected figures of our time".

As Secretary of State, I had the very great honour and signal privilege of accompanying from Montreal to Ottawa Their Excellencies the Governor General and Madame Vanier when they left the Canadian metropolis to make their official entrance into the Capital.

I shall keep an imperishable memory of the all too short moments spent in the company of this illustrious couple.

The Speech from the Throne which was read at the opening of the third session of the twenty-fourth Parliament contains a heavy legislative program.

What strikes me, however, at least in the first paragraphs of the speech, is the obvious and ardent desire that peace should reign among the different countries of the world. And in order that people may enjoy such peace and harmony in the four corners of the world, the Government of Canada will leave no stone unturned.

I might add that during the year which has just ended, Canada has had the opportunity of asserting herself on the international scene, both at the United Nations and at NATO. I believe that our country continues to display and to increase its prestige within the international bodies working towards the peaceful solution of differences and the passing of agreements likely to promote peace throughout the world.

Canada wants a lasting peace because we know very well that without it we will experience a disaster that will spare no single part of the world.