

two great races whose toils have cleared the land, civilized and made a greater Canada. They wished to convey the idea that they especially expected from the virtues and eminent qualities of these two races, the peaceful and united effort which will give to our country the marvellous expansion that the future has in store for it, and which will make it—as already foretold—the country of the twentieth century. The government went further. To second the motion for an address in reply to the speech from the throne, they might have chosen among the brilliant array of representatives from the province of Quebec. They however wished to extend this honour to the only member belonging to the French language elected west of the great lakes. They certainly desired to emphasize the fact that the Canadian of French origin is placed on an equal footing in this country and that the sons of the pioneers are everywhere at home in this vast Dominion. By inviting the comments of a French Canadian from the west, the government wished to show their trust in the various French settlements of the prairie provinces and convey the hope that the citizens of the French language would lend, in the development of this vast region, their powerful and peaceful co-operation. It is not therefore solely on my behalf that I wish to thank the government and congratulate them on their broad mindedness, but it is also on behalf of the French Canadian people who are, through my humble person, the recipients of this honour and token of appreciation that I wish to extend to the right hon. Prime Minister and his hon. colleagues the feelings of a sincere and deep gratitude.

Before commenting upon the speech from the throne, allow me, Mr. Speaker, to express our joy in seeing you looking always young and in such good health. Time rolls on without ever leaving any trace upon your features and each session we see you return ever ready to give with an untiring zeal, to our country and its representatives, the benefit of your great parliamentary experience, of your deep knowledge of our customs, laws and of your science in other spheres, as well as of your sense of fairness, of your personal prestige, vigour and great activity. Together with your friends and admirers to your right, sir, let me express the wish that you may remain for a long time to come the high office that you so honourably fill. I even believe that I express also the secret wish of those to your left, sir, for although all the members of the loyal opposition may desire a change of government, I feel certain that there are many among them who would regret a change in the speakership of the house.

[Mr. Beaubien.]

Since last session, the features of the loyal opposition have somewhat altered. In a great national convention held in Winnipeg, the Conservative party chose as leader, the hon. representative of West Calgary (Mr. Bennett). There is no need for me to speak in praise of the new leader. He is esteemed by all, and I have no doubt that, under his able leadership, the members who support him will co-operate with him in order that the present government may wisely direct the affairs of the country. The hon. member for West Calgary stands out very prominently at the head of the opposition forces and, I trust that, together with all his friends to your right, sir, he may fill this post for a long time to come.

The speech from the throne contains no high sounding statement. In a moderate language it testifies to the prosperous conditions of the country and states the intention of the government to continue in the path of material progress by ensuring national unity. First recalling the great celebrations which commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of confederation, they remind us also of the harmony and union which presided over the celebration and draw our attention to the growing feeling of national pride and patriotism existing among all sections of our people. This love of country in no way weakens the ties which bind us to the other parts of the empire, as evidenced by the warmth of our people's welcome to the Prime Minister of Great Britain. The merry-making of our people have once more revealed our unshaken and loyal attachment to the royal family and British crown. The cheering which welcomed the visit of their Royal Highnesses, the Prince of Wales and Prince George have fully set forth this attachment.

Canada's status was clearly enunciated at the Imperial conference of 1926. The report of the conference regarding the autonomous units of the British Empire contains the following passage:

They are autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the crown, and freely associated as members of the British commonwealth of nations.

This new status giving us fully the rank of a nation in the world was acknowledged in a striking manner when our country was elected to a non-permanent seat at the council of the League of Nations. Canada may well be elated over it, we have also cause to be proud in having as our representative, at the council of the league, a man whose emi-