

*The Address—Mr. Wood*

We, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in Parliament assembled, humbly wish to convey to Your Majesty our gratitude for the gracious speech Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

● (1720)

[English]

**Mr. Donald Wood (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the opportunity to second the motion of the hon. member for Louis-Hébert (Mr. Dawson). It has not been long since I first joined my colleagues in this Chamber, and I am therefore grateful for the confidence that was expressed in requesting that I second this motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

This has indeed been a splendid day for parliament and an historic day for Canada in that it represents the second time in our history that our Sovereign has, in person, opened a session of parliament. I might add that it is a tribute to our Queen that she, the most travelled Canadian monarch in our history, is not only the second monarch ever to read the Speech from the Throne, but that she was also the first. It is indeed the energy and the grace of our Queen that have made our monarchy a symbol of adaptability and conscience in a rapidly changing world.

I was most pleased that Her Majesty took time to remember on Sunday night in her dinner speech her visit to Prince Edward Island during our centennial Year.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wood:** We indeed remember fondly her gracious presence on our beautiful island. I am sure that my constituents will join all islanders in saying to her that she will always be welcome in our midst and we hope she will soon return.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wood:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with you in expressing my condolences to the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Stanfield) and his family.

I now want to pay tribute to the hon. member for Louis-Hébert who so eloquently moved the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

I would be remiss if I did not express my appreciation to Your Honour whose impartiality and clear-sightedness were obvious to me in the last session.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wood:** As is the custom, I should like to talk about my constituency and my beloved island home; but first I want to pay personal tribute to the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacDonald) who represents Prince Edward Island in the cabinet.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wood:** This is a minister who possesses the common-sense, determination, and the dignity that I like to associate

[Mr. Dawson.]

with all Canadians. All Canadians would do well to use this minister as a model in decision-making and moral fabric.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wood:** And, speaking of great individuals, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is celebrating a birthday—Happy Birthday.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wood:** When I speak of Prince Edward Island with its natural beauty and peacefulness, I could easily become lost in a rhapsody of nostalgia, but I cannot allow the contemplation of those cobblestones that were the foundation of the past to distract me from looking to the building of the future.

The constituency of Malpeque includes an area that might be considered the west central portion of our province, with the Gulf of St. Lawrence to our north and the Northumberland Strait to our south lapping against our coastlines, with tranquility or with vicious violence. Yes, it is very picturesque and it offers a haven for the summer tourist. In these waters that I mention, lobsters crawl, our famous Malpeque oysters hold fast, and the giant blue-fin tuna join us like the other summer visitors from July to October.

● (1730)

Back on land the crops flourish, because about 90 per cent of my constituency falls into class 2 of the Canada Land Inventory. This is good land. In my constituency of Malpeque over two thirds of the total island potato production is grown, and our farmers are proud that they are able to produce a quality potato that is sought after for seed by many countries throughout the world.

Knit together with the farmers and fishermen are the processing and manufacturing industries and the small business operators that entwine to make up my rural constituency. To keep these operations moving and productive, we have our labour force—a rather unique labour force because this group of workers must depend upon industries that are very seasonal. We cannot survive without our labour force, and yet one needs little imagination to recognize the real problem of a man with a family whose talents are inexpensible for six months of the year and unnecessary for the other six.

We are proud of our products which possess such high quality, but this quality has been the result not only of individual but also of collective effort on the part of people. We have many well-to-do farmers and fishermen and small businessmen, all of whom are free enterprisers in our society. But we have others who are not so well-to-do—they must struggle. This is natural and normal because no democratic country can survive on a one-class system.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that we have evolved beyond the theory of survival of the fittest to the theory which I feel best fits our present society, and that is survival of the efficient. People who live from the land and the sea cannot consider work as another four letter word. The word work, for the