

The Address—Mr. Chevrier

their triumphs, Canada will continue in the future, as in the past, a united and progressive nation, the brightest star in the British crown.

Mr. LIONEL CHEVRIER (Stormont) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with an old parliamentary custom, one of the two speeches made in moving and seconding the address, is delivered in French.

This year the honour of making the French speech has fallen to your humble servant. I am indeed most grateful to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) for having chosen me. His choice was undoubtedly intended to honour the county of Stormont, which is rapidly gaining more and more importance in our national economy. The county of Stormont contains a large population of workers and farmers to whom this quotation from Longfellow's "Evangeline" may be fittingly applied:

Men whose lives glided on like rivers that
water the woodlands
Darkened by shadows of Earth, but reflect-
ing an image of Heaven.

There are to be found also in the county of Stormont great potential hydroelectric resources which the United States are endeavouring to develop jointly with Canada, and which, when developed, will make that area one of the richest and most prosperous in the Dominion. In choosing me, the Prime Minister also wished to pay homage to the French-speaking population of Ontario, who, in the days of Laurier, and even before them, embraced the Liberal faith, and have since remained faithful under the guidance of Mackenzie King. In the name of the French-speaking people of Ontario, and in the name of my own constituents, may I express my deep gratitude to the Prime Minister.

At the outset, in greeting you, Mr. Speaker, let me say how pleased we all are to see you again in the chair, ready to resume your sessional duties. We know that you will preside over this house with the same tact, courtesy and patience you have shown in the past.

I also wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the former leader of the Conservative party, Right Hon. Mr. Bennett, who, unfortunately is not in his seat at present. It was with deep regret that we heard last summer that he was to leave Canada to reside in England. May I be permitted to say that his departure will be a serious loss to his own party and to Canada as a whole. All members will join with me in wishing him health, long life, and a long and fruitful career abroad.

[Mr. Matthews.]

Since last session the Conservative party has chosen a new leader, who is well known in this house, I wish to congratulate Hon. Doctor Manion upon the high honour bestowed upon him. His qualities as a leader and as a fearless debater and experienced parliamentarian will be invaluable assets to his party. I wish him long life as the Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

The dominant note of the speech from the throne is undoubtedly the reference to the visit of Their Majesties, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, next May. No news has ever been received with greater enthusiasm in Canada than the announcement of their coming to this country. All Canadian citizens, without distinction of race or creed, rejoice at the prospect of this visit. I am sure that, from near and far, they will hasten to pay homage to their majesties and give expression to sentiments of loyalty and devotion to these two illustrious personages, representing the supreme authority. Our people will be eager to manifest their allegiance and fidelity to the British sovereigns, who, under the statute of Westminster, are also King and Queen of Canada.

(Text) During the course of the summer this country was singularly honoured when it received as its guest no less a person than the President of the United States. Jointly with the Prime Minister of Canada he officiated at the opening of an international bridge near Brockville. His visit will long be remembered by those who were present and his statements marked the beginning of a new era in our relationship with the United States. At Kingston, where an honorary degree was conferred on the president by Queen's university, he declared that if Canada were ever attacked by a foreign nation, the United States could not and would not stand idly by. I need not labour the importance of this declaration so far as we are concerned.

At Ivy Lea the president discussed with his vast audience the project of deepening the St. Lawrence waterway, which often has received the attention of this house. He invited consideration of the draft treaty laid on the table of the house during the last session. In view of the serious unemployment situation which prevails in the country at the present time, this problem should receive the most careful consideration. The president's visit was a momentous one and helped greatly to strengthen the ties which already unite us to our neighbours to the south.

(Translation) Leaving this pleasant part of the speech, may I now turn to a situation laden with grave consequences for us all. Towards the end of September last we passed through