

The Address—Mr. Picard

the old system needs to be superseded by something that will bring on that glorious age.

I notice, Mr. Speaker, you have your hands on the arms of your chair, which is indicative that you are about to rise and tell me that my time has expired. The subject matter that I have at hand is almost endless, for the battle of the ages has been taking place since the dawn of mankind and will continue until we learn what it is all about. Otherwise we shall never be able to solve this nation's problems or the problems that face a befuddled world.

Mr. L. Philippe Picard (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, it is really too bad that the people who were here at three o'clock were not present a moment ago to listen to the hon. member who preceded me. They would have learned that at least one party in the house has a monopoly on knowledge, and a monopoly on prophecy.

Mr. Hansell: You could give some indication you have some.

Mr. Picard: The galleries were filled with people who came here expecting fireworks, but the fireworks did not materialize, and the fire petered out—

Mr. Low: You are putting water on it now.

Mr. Picard: —as will the bonfire that has been lit before, and is being lit again throughout the country by propagandists of the Progressive Conservative party. As Confucius said, "glamour is exciting to some but it is oftentimes shortlived".

The mover (Mr. Brown) and seconder (Mr. Demers) of the address having discharged their tasks well, it is fitting that I join my voice with those who have preceded me in extending to them my sincere congratulations. To the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), who has assumed office since we last met, I wish to pay a tribute of admiration, and to give assurance of my loyal support as a member of the party that he has been selected to lead. The Prime Minister succeeds a man whose name will be associated in history with those who made confederation possible, like Macdonald and Cartier; he succeeds a man whose name will be associated with those who led it on its path toward complete autonomy, like Laurier; he succeeds a man who held office for the longest period known in the countries of the commonwealth, and who, more than any other Canadian, contributed to make Canada a sovereign state. As leader of his party he succeeds two great men, Laurier and King, who for sixty years guided its destinies with rare sagacity. As chief exponent of the views of Canadians of French

[Mr. Hansell.]

descent, he succeeds Laurier and Lapointe, whose broad views have helped to build unity and a better understanding among the descendants of the two great races of the country. The Prime Minister has the talent, the ability, the courage, the inspiration, and the breadth of vision that make of him their worthy successor. It is with great pleasure that I offer him my sincere congratulations and my cordial wishes for a long tenure of office.

My congratulations also go to the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew), and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson), who have already made a valuable contribution to the public life of the country in their respective provinces. I also want to associate with this tribute another newcomer to the house, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson), who has ably served the country in high diplomatic posts. All these men have already taken part in our debates, and have proven valuable additions to parliament. In my opinion, the brilliant speeches of the Secretary of State for External Affairs in this debate, as well as on the Newfoundland issue, have justified the confidence put in him by the former and the present prime ministers.

At this point I wish to avail myself of the opportunity to thank my good friend and colleague from Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) for having noted, during his speech on the Newfoundland bill, that I had been the first among the members now sitting in this house to advocate the return to Canada of all or part of Newfoundland. His words were all the more appreciated as it is indeed rare that a member pays any tribute to a colleague in this manner, and I wish to thank him. In order not to delay the passing of the bill for the union of Newfoundland with Canada I forsook the opportunity to speak on the question, but for the record may I refer hon. members to *Hansard* of February 17 and May 11, 1943, when I expressed my views on the matter.

The two main points of the speech from the throne deal with our position in world affairs, and the economic situation facing the country. I intended today to devote my time to certain aspects of these two questions, considering them of the utmost importance, and transcending all other questions of no less interest to the electors of the country, but certainly of less bearing on the future of Canada. In view of the trend of the speeches delivered by members of the Progressive Conservative party, I feel that it is my duty to deal with some of the issues they have raised in the present debate.

I think it is highly indicative of the methods employed by their party that a man of the reputation and the standing of the leader of