

Canadian West and also far to the Canadian North. The proverbial hospitality of our fellow citizens in that part of Canada would doubtless be extended with particular zest to visitors so very distinguished and at the same time so democratic in habit and sympathy. No member of this House who has enjoyed—and I think all have—that personal touch with His Excellency will doubt the sincerity of the wish of His Excellency for the welfare, not only of Canada in general, but of every constituency in our far-flung Dominion. In that spirit, in that light, we interpret his recent trip to the West. This House is pleased that Their Excellencies accomplished that long journey evidently with no undue discomfort, but under conditions which made the visit the very reverse. If and when Their Excellencies visit eastern Canada, I am sure the people there will be only too proud, will find it an unbounded pleasure, to try to emulate the hospitality of the West. We cannot show them there mountains as high, or valleys as deep; or plains as wide, as those which obtain in the West; but we have a type of natural scenery, the varied beauty of which will stand, like the word of Caesar, "against the world".

We members of this House who were present yesterday heard from our three respective leaders very touching and appropriate references to four parliamentary comrades who have departed. Time, the great healer, has had, as yet, the least opportunity to perform his kindly office in the case of the Hon. Mr. Kennedy, late Minister of Railways in the present administration. Even after this House was summoned, he received that other summons which supersedes every human plan, every human mandate with which it may come into conflict. The words concerning the virtues of our departed friends were so well and fittingly spoken yesterday that in saying more I am in danger of adding imperfection to that which was said so perfectly. But I did have the pleasure of knowing, in varying degree of intimacy, those four friends, and I am at least able to say of them all, that each had a heart like the heart of a tender child, but a character as firm as a rock. After all, the shock was tempered somewhat in each case, by the circumstance which was pointed out by the right hon. the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) yesterday, namely, that though they were with us as recently as last session, hoping to return to the duties of this, there was a premonitory hand visible upon them. Frequently the angel of death beckons away from their activities and from their ambitions those who are in the prime of

[Mr. Putnam.]

years and in the pride of their strength. In the case of all these four friends the visitation was a release from a wavering body, "a worn-out fetter which the soul had broken and thrown away."

Mr. Speaker, it is entirely to my constituency that I ascribe the honour which is involved in the very kindly request of my political superiors that I should move this afternoon this reply to the Speech from the Throne. I would disclaim even any partial application of that honour to myself personally. Indeed, I would invoke my own obscurity in the discussions of this House as proof that the favour was for my constituency, and from what I have heard since the bestowal of this honour, I am amply authorized to say, as representing people of all political affiliations in my constituency, that that constituency appreciates the honour.

I should like,—but I know the sense of proportion will forbid,—to delineate some of the local characteristics of my constituency. The House, however, will allow me to say that, in geographical situation, in point of importance, it is easily one of the pivotal counties of the Maritime provinces. I should like to tell of the industry of its virile people, of the importance of its shire town, as an educational and railway centre, of its natural scenery, wherein it has the constant blue waters of the Northumberland strait upon its north, and those wonderfully whimsical tides from the Bay of Fundy on the major part of its south shore. Those tides caress and forsake that south shore every morning and every night. I should like to tell of those Cobequid mountains, standing always as a thing of beauty between those two arms of the sea. I should like to tell of rich and cultivated valleys in my county bejewelled with beautiful farm houses, commingling with stately elm trees for mile upon mile until, were it not that the unfolding panorama were so enchanting, the traveller would protest that he were satiated. But I shall not offend further the sense of proportion by dwelling upon a thing so purely local in regard to the constituency to which I so gladly relate the honour of my place towards this motion today, for a high honour it is, because this recurring motion is always, by common consent of all the parties, and groups in this House, accorded an august and cordial place of priority at the very threshold of our deliberations. Unfortunately, in the earlier days of colonial and constitutional government, especially in the older provinces of Canada, a Speech or a Message from the British Throne could not be always received