

may also depend on the votes of the people of Canada. The province of New Brunswick, his native province, is proud of him and the Canadian people now realize that they have found a saviour.

It has been said, Mr. Speaker, that history was in the making when last week, for the first time since confederation, His Excellency the Governor General was not present at the opening of parliament.

If my information is correct, it is also the first time since confederation that an Acadian has received the honour of moving the resolution in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The event may be of little historical importance to the rest of Canada. Acadians, however, an important element of our eastern population, will long remember the occasion and the broadmindedness of the right hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues in this behalf. Permit me to say that the Acadians are law-abiding citizens, proud of their ancestry, proud of their customs and their language, but prouder still of their connection with the British crown. Any move to weaken the ties which bind them to the mother country would be deeply resented. I appreciate to the full the honour conferred upon me. The honour is not due to me personally, but is due to my electors for the loyal support they gave our party on July 28th of last year.

The electoral district of Restigouche-Madawaska is inhabited by citizens of mixed racial origins and mixed religious beliefs. I am pleased to say that we live happily together; we are friendly and neighbourly; we mix socially and in business affairs; the race problem there has long been eliminated, if it ever existed. The county of Madawaska, mostly French, for years elected to this house the late Hon. John Costigan. In the local legislature we have had as representatives Mr. Thomas Clair and Colonel Jesse W. Baker. In the town of Edmundston, 85 per cent French, since our incorporation, we have elected as mayor, Mr. Burpee, Mr. Hall and Mr. Lawson. In the county of Restigouche, about 65 per cent French, we elect for the local legislature a member of English origin and one of French origin. In the town of Campbellton, English-speaking in the majority the mayor is of English origin whilst the president of the local board of trade is of French origin. In the last federal election the English-speaking sections of my constituency gave me a most loyal support, although my opponent was English-speaking.

This harmonious working together of different races and different religions is most worthy of commendation, and it is in deference to the English-speaking members of this House and

[Mr. Cormier.]

in appreciation and gratitude to my English-speaking constituents that I make these few remarks in the English language in this my first address in the House of Commons, an address which, by custom, is delivered in the French language.

Moderation in all things is a virtue. The principle of give and take in a mixed community makes for good understanding. If we would only follow the golden rule and the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount, how much useless rancour and strife would be eliminated from the face of the earth!

I said a moment ago that history was in the making. When the political history of Madawaska county is written, it will be recorded that it voted Conservative from 1867 to 1900; then in 1900, unfortunately for itself and for the rest of the country, it went wrong and until 1930 supported Liberal candidates by very large majorities. It went so wrong that in 1908 it gave our party only 84 votes. Last July the difference between the votes given the two parties was 87, in spite of base appeals promiscuously scattered throughout the length and breadth of the county by our opponents at a time when such appeals could not be met. Mr. Speaker, the prodigal son is coming back home and will never leave it again!

I have said that moderation is a virtue. When the political history of Canada is written, if it is written according to the facts, it will record that in times of national crisis the moderates, and therefore the virtuous of both parties in Canada joined together to defend political principles which made for the betterment and the happiness of the people. It happened in 1854, and the result of that union was confederation. It happened again at the election of 1878, when hard times had come over the land. It happened again in 1911, when reciprocity with another nation threatened the economic life of Canada. It happened again during the great war when the moderates of both parties joined together for the common good. And it happened in 1930, when starvation was staring us in the face; again the moderates of both political parties in Canada joined hands to give the country one of the ablest statesmen it has ever produced.

The energy, the courage, the determination shown by our beloved leader, since he accepted that elevated position are so well known to Canadians and so fresh in their memory that it is useless for me to dwell upon the subject. Let me assure this house, however, that in spite of newspaper talk from sources very well known to us all, in the words of the Montreal Star: