

*The Address—Mr. Y. Leduc*

Verdun lacked only one important federal public service. It was a post office in line with the essential needs of its greatly increased population. Fortunately the Postmaster General (Mr. Cote) and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Winters) have realized the urgency and the seriousness of the situation. Plans for extension of the post office are being prepared and carried out, and I would be remiss in my duty if I failed to thank them both for having lent a kind ear to my representations. May I voice the wish that this restoration of the Verdun post office may be worthy of the third French city in America, the fourteenth most important city in Canada, and that it may be extensive enough so that the people of Verdun may get a postal service beyond reproach.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if we glance at the modern history of our country, we can readily see that the right hon. the Prime Minister, the leader of the government, that efficient component of society whose duty it is to remove the obstacles which impede the progress of man towards his destiny and the pursuit of his ideal, has become famous for having held on to the course he had set for himself in the political creed which, in his first speech as a member of this house, he put in these words:

The right of men, rich and poor, to be treated as men; the right of men to make the laws by which they shall be governed; the right of men to work where they will at what they will; the right of womankind to the serenity and sanctity of the home; the right of children to play in safety under peaceful heavens; the right of old men and women to the tranquillity of their sunset; the right to speak the truth in our hearts; the right to worship, in our own way, the God in whom we believe.

Freedom and security; such is the motto of the good father in the managing of the affairs of the state, both internal and external.

The implementation of such a political program was to have considerable and beneficial effects within the nation and beyond the seas. Not only was the prime minister duly acclaimed during his world tour, but he saw with his own eyes the marked progress towards his objective: recognition by the other nations of the globe of our distinctive national identity, of the Canadian citizen's broad-mindedness as well as of his wish to fraternize with his fellow men.

There is no reason, then, to be surprised that so many important personalities have visited Canada since the last parliamentary session. There have been, among others:

[Mr. Leduc (Verdun).]

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, whose perfect bilingualism delighted and moved her audience; the Duke of Edinburgh; the Duchess of Kent and her daughter Princess Alexandra; His Majesty Haile Selassie, King of Ethiopia; the venerable Sir Winston Churchill, prime minister of the United Kingdom; the dynamic prime minister of the council of the French Republic, Pierre Mendès-France; Mr. Shigeru Yoshida, prime minister of Japan; Sir John Kotelawala, premier of Ceylon; the Right Honourable and Lady Swinton; the Austrian chancellor, Julius Raab, whose justified aim it is to obtain his country's sovereignty and independence; and lastly, that eminent statesman and distinguished scholar, Dr. Radhakrishnan, vice-president of India. Mr. Speaker, a politician's speech, be he the nation's head or a subordinate, should not be only "the adornment of his time, like a lovely lady". His words should be inspired by the social task to be achieved in the service of his people. For the natural tendency of man, in fact one of his permanent needs and ennobling aspirations, is the pursuit if not of perfect happiness, at least of comparative and lasting happiness. This vital instinct cannot be fulfilled without freedom, security, peace of mind and the minimum well-being essential to the development of his personality. Only in a state, or society, based on sound morals and on a legislation that has stood the test of actual experience will the honest citizen open his mind to truth and strengthen his will to serve the common weal. I scarcely need add that a sovereign country like ours will only keep its chances of progress and development if it can permanently enjoy the freedom, stability and national peace that are essential to the people.

That freedom, that security, that moral and economic stability, that national peace, we already have and our government is bending every effort to strengthen them. One has merely to point out the achievements, with far-reaching social and humanitarian effects, brought about during and after the last session of this parliament and about which I would like to say a few words if, by doing so, Mr. Speaker, I do not try your patience and that of our colleagues.

"Laws", said Ozanam, "are the soul of the land." The soul and action of the social legislation enacted by this government are proof of its desire that the science of government should become "the science of peace" and of the harmonious state.

Everyone remembers the amendments made last March to the National Housing Act in order to allow the chartered banks and