

As a nation we have been saddened by the news of his affliction, as we have rejoiced at the most happy event of the birth of a royal grandson and future heir to the throne, and the health and well-being of Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh.

Since the last session of this parliament our esteemed Prime Minister, Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, has retired from the position he has filled for so long a period with unparalleled distinction and ability. During his long term of office Canada has reached a high place among the nations of the world, a proud place which we shall continue to hold under the leadership of our new Prime Minister, Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent, whose ability and entire fitness for his position are well known to the members of this honourable house.

On behalf of myself and my newly-appointed colleagues, I should like to thank the honourable leader of the government here, and the other honourable members of both sides of this house, for the sincere welcome which has been extended to us on taking our seats in this chamber. I am not entirely a stranger here. I have many pleasant recollections of association with many of you in the House of Commons, where for many years I had the honour of representing the constituency of Algoma East, whose people are now represented by the Honourable L. B. Pearson, Minister of External Affairs.

The riding of Algoma East, including Manitoulin Island, is largely rural, and its people engage in the diverse interests usually connected with such a district. They are most progressive and employ the most modern methods in mixed farming, lumbering, pulp and paper production, mining and fishing. Perhaps to the rest of Canada and many parts of the United States our district is best known for its tourist attractions, and the fisherman and sightseer are catered to with efficiency. Much of our farm land is well adapted for the raising of beef cattle, and in the marketing of this product we have the distinction of holding the largest annual one-day sale of beef cattle in Canada. This is carried out by a well-organized farmers' co-operative society. Similarly, many tons of high-grade turkeys are marketed each fall and are in great demand for their high quality.

As I said before, Algoma East has been represented since the by-election of last October by the Honourable Lester B. Pearson. When he was invited by the Liberal executive to contest the riding, the Conservative party, recognizing the outstanding abilities which so well fitted him for his diplomatic post, decided not to oppose him. He

therefore received their full support, and the result was an overwhelming victory over his C.C.F. and Social Credit opponents. Immediately following his election Mr. Pearson left for Paris to join the Canadian delegation to the third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Upon his arrival he took over the responsibilities of leader of the delegation from the Honourable Mr. Chevrier, who was required by his duties as Minister of Transport to return to Canada.

Mr. Pearson was already well known in United Nations circles, having played a prominent role in various international organizations such as UNRRA. He was a member of the Canadian delegation at San Francisco when the Charter was drafted, and he subsequently represented Canada at a number of United Nations meetings. He also played a leading part in the discussions of many important international questions, and when he entered the government he had already built for himself, as a Canadian civil servant, an enviable reputation in international affairs. This reputation was based on his personal qualities of judgment and sincerity. To the people of many countries he represented the typical Canadian: friendly and informal, but practical and workmanlike. He therefore had many friends from other countries to welcome him when he took his place in Paris in his new role as Secretary of State for External Affairs for Canada. Mr. Pearson played a leading part in the proceedings of the Assembly when decisions were made on a number of political questions, such as Berlin, Palestine, Greece and Korea.

Since returning to this country Mr. Pearson has been able to give a full account of what took place. I think his report on the United Nations is characteristically Canadian. It is sober and realistic. It does not minimize the difficulties and limitations of that organization, but at the same time it makes clear the fact that our membership in the United Nations serves basic Canadian interests.

Valuable as were Mr. Pearson's special duties as a civil servant, I am sure that we all realize that in his new position as Minister of External Affairs his ability will have wider scope and be of greater value to Canada. Mr. Pearson already has made a host of friends in Algoma East, and they are duly appreciative of the honour of being represented by him. He has already made it clear that their interests will not be neglected because of the pressure of his broader activities.

I now wish to speak briefly about the tariff concessions obtained at Geneva in 1947, which were referred to in the Speech from the Throne. Although Canada has a comparatively small population, it is today the