

I am sure honourable senators on both sides of the house share our pride in the achievements of Canada in war and in reconstruction. Everyone in this chamber, I believe, agrees that Canada—the government having interpreted the views of the country in organizing the utmost war effort without restriction—should be entitled to an unrestricted share in making peace.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. McKEEN: It is not as though Canada was seeking some selfish local advantage out of the peace. We recognize, and the government is insisting, that since two wars have proved that Canada cannot stay out in isolation, we should have an effective voice in making a peace which will last more than one generation.

The present Prime Minister has occupied that position for one quarter of the whole life of this nation. He speaks with an authority and experience unequalled among public men in office in the world today. I believe the Canadian people generally are agreed that he is in a position to make a great contribution to the establishment of a peaceful world.

In conclusion, I return to the subject with which I began these remarks, the importance of Canada taking her proper place in the world programme for organizing international peace. We can make a beginning at home by cultivating the arts of friendly intercourse and conciliation among ourselves. We cannot look forward to international peace unless and until we have the skill and the patience to preserve peace among ourselves—peace between province and province; peace between provincial and federal authority; peace between capital and labour; peace between the great races which make up our country.

In this regard we have a proud history and a great heritage. The great statesmen who have gone before us, members of both houses of parliament, have contributed much to the strength and unity of Canada. We should be mindful of our great traditions, but I am not satisfied that we should rest in the shadows of our yesterdays. Rather, we should march forward into the sunshine of our tomorrows.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. PAUL HENRI BOUFFARD (Translation): Honourable senators, it is not without very real emotion that I rise today for the first time to address this house of which I am now a member and through which have passed so many of my famous countrymen.

Unfortunately I do not possess the invaluable asset of the parliamentary experience that many of you have acquired, either in the federal or in the provincial field.

I thank you in advance for the indulgence with which you will no doubt greet my efforts.

May I be allowed, as this session opens, to pay my compliments to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, Viscount Alexander of Tunis, who, after having been one of the greatest among the generals who have led the United Nations to final victory, now provides us with an opportunity to admire his great qualities as a diplomat. In this respect he has shown such tact as has been equalled by nothing but the grace and dignity with which Viscountess Alexander has been assisting him.

The honourable leader will allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude for the great honour which he has extended to me in allowing me to second the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. This honour belongs not so much to me as to the province I represent and to my division, no doubt one of the most beautiful in all Canada, situated as it is along the bank of the majestic St. Lawrence, which evokes feelings of pride throughout the whole of Canada, and admiration amongst those who come to visit us.

I will avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate him upon the brilliant part he has taken in the United Nations conference which has just ended in New York. He distinguished himself there by his wisdom, under the direction of the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent whose reputation by now has far exceeded the boundaries of Canada. The honourable leader has largely contributed to the success of that conference, which, at the outset, had seemed practically impossible.

This expression of admiration also goes to the honourable leader of the Opposition in this house. The Canadian delegation has deserved the admiration of foreigners and of Canadians alike.

Will the honourable senator from Vancouver allow me to congratulate him on the masterly speech which he has just delivered? This auspicious beginning promises a bright future for him in the higher spheres of our Canadian Parliament.

Allow me, honourable senators, to regret the passing of His Eminence Cardinal Villeneuve.

He was an ardent patriot, a sincere Canadian and has exerted a good influence, not only in his own city and province, but throughout the whole of Canada. His death is a great loss, but we will not soon forget the lessons which he has taught us.

It is not an easy matter to succeed to the seat of the Grandville division, left vacant as it was by the death of Sir Thomas Chapais, one of the noblest of contemporary figures.