

*The Address—Mr. Dumas*

justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario Mr. Gibson will honour the judiciary as he honoured this house.

To the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Harris) I extend my congratulations upon his becoming a member of the cabinet. There are no doubts in the minds of those who have known him that he will be competent and successful as Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

*(Translation):*

On January 10 last, the intergovernmental conference called for the purpose of considering a procedure to amend the constitution opened in this chamber. We all know the importance of that conference and the significance of the decisions taken. The earnestness and discretion shown by the press from the Atlantic to the Pacific in discussing the problems involved is adequate evidence of the concern of the Canadian population and of the common desire to reach a fair and equitable solution. The very future of Canadian sovereignty is at stake.

I am glad to recall the great courtesy and the remarkable political insight shown by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) in directing those proceedings. I would like also to recall how fully co-operative were all our provincial premiers, especially those of my own province, of Ontario and of Nova Scotia. The Canadian people have been pleased with the initial results of the conference. There is no doubt that the intergovernmental committee which was set up to continue its work will carry on with the same concern for harmony, and seek to achieve unity in Canada through respect for the rights of all Canadians. May God assist its members in their endeavours and bless their work.

We hope to witness in the near future the birth of the Canada charter, a model of fairness and justice. May it be flexible enough to guarantee the rights of all the provinces as well as those of the two great races which make up the whole country, while at the same time providing the federal government with the necessary powers to look after the interests of a united Canada, of a Canada whose wealth is a guarantee of strength.

The electoral district of Villeneuve, which I have the privilege to represent, has been named after an illustrious and holy prelate and a great Canadian. It was created during the last parliament by dividing the old district of Pontiac. It is located in the north-west part of the province of Quebec. The people there are engaged in farming, lumber-

ing and mining. Half rural and half urban, Villeneuve county is proud of having, in the order of their foundation, such cities as Rouyn, Noranda, Val d'Or, Bourlamaque, Malartic, Duparquet and Cadillac. The oldest are not twenty-five years old. I could also mention mining villages like Sullivan, Perron and others. Farm settlements are rapidly being replaced by fine, fully organized parishes. A few years hence, Villeneuve county will, from an agricultural standpoint, compare favourably with any other area in Canada.

I would be remiss in my duty, Mr. Speaker, if I failed to praise before the house the courageous people of my constituency for the splendid way in which they have developed, in record time and often under difficult conditions, the vast resources which Providence has bestowed upon the county of Villeneuve. The settlers and prospectors of my constituency, who daily add to our national heritage, show the same courage and perseverance as our pioneering forefathers and the same initiative and endurance as the *coureurs de bois* who discovered and channelled our wealth.

Because it is not yet fully homogeneous, because it daily faces the problems inseparable from the development of a new country where everything awaits to be done and where the slightest deficiency may prove fatal, because it lacks the security afforded by long standing assets, the population of my constituency, though very industrious, can better than any other appreciate the benefits that stem from social legislation initiated by liberal governments. My constituents warmly cheer the throne speech proposals to widen the scope of previous enactments.

To mention only housing legislation, for instance, the cities of Rouyn and Val d'Or have, already, to a great extent availed themselves of opportunities offered to them, while the town of Malartic proposes to do likewise within a few months. May rural centres and farming communities soon have their turn!

Though most people in Villeneuve county are of French-speaking origin, a considerable number of them are of British descent. In addition there are in our cities several new Canadians and citizens of tomorrow. Let me proclaim to the country at large the friendly relationship that prevails among us. It is not a feeling based on sentiment, on elegant phrases and platonic wishes but on a practical sense of mutual respect, active co-operation and brotherly help. At Malartic for instance, where I live, and elsewhere in the county, people can sing: "Vive la Cana-

[Mr. Dumas.]