

An hon. MEMBER: Oh, oh.

Mr. SLAGHT: My hon. friend apparently appreciates, as all hon. members may not appreciate, that I have the privilege of claiming as one of my constituents, and I believe even a supporter, the famous Doctor Dafoe, and just a mile outside the little town of Callander, where he lives, the five Dionne babies are nestled in their hospital. So I ask you, sir, if any constituency in our broad dominion could be more appropriately honoured on this occasion than my own constituency of Parry Sound. And lest I should be thought lacking in hospitality I convey to you now, sir, and to all hon. members of this house, an invitation to come to my beautiful riding this summer, to come to Callander and visit us. I desire to single out and render a special invitation to four members of this house in the persons of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett), the Postmaster General (Mr. Elliott) and the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Macenzie). I assure these hon. gentlemen that if they will do us the honour of paying us a visit this coming summer I shall be able to introduce them to five of the most charming young ladies in the Dominion of Canada.

It is also with real sincerity that I desire to congratulate the right hon. former Prime Minister, the hon. member for West Calgary (Mr. Bennett) upon his return to this house apparently greatly improved in strength and vigour. Sir, I count the house and the country fortunate that in the years immediately ahead of us we are to have the benefit of his courage, his industry and his wide experience in framing the laws of our country. It has been said that laws are best made when there is a strong and virile opposition. While the opposition in this house may not be numerically as strong as the right hon. gentleman would wish it to be, I am sure that in the able and brilliant veterans who survived the late struggle, and in the new blood which he finds added to his party, any lack in numerical strength will be fully compensated by their capable support.

Permit me also to felicitate the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) on his return to this house at the head of his party. It is true that he has returned with a progressively diminishing following, but that I feel sure will not affect his indomitable optimism, his sincerity, and his fighting qualities, all of which are so well established.

I desire, Mr. Speaker, to make a reference to His Excellency the Governor General. In the speech from the throne His Excellency

declared himself honoured by having been chosen to represent the king in Canada. We in turn feel that for us the choice has been a singularly happy one.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. SLAGHT: It is indeed a privilege to be permitted to voice through you, sir, to His Excellency the Governor General in the person of Lord Tweedsmuir, a warm and most sincere welcome from the people of Canada on this auspicious occasion. Even before His Excellency reached our shores we knew we were receiving not a stranger but a friend. His distinguished career in the service of the motherland was known to us. The work he did while attached to the British headquarters in France and the unostentatious but very valuable service he rendered to our empire was a matter within our knowledge. And in another way we felt we knew him. His contributions to the field of literature have been read and reread in Canada, and both before and after his coming to us have been literally devoured in the homes of the Canadian people. These sparkling and vivacious stories of the secret service have charmed us all from youth to mature age. I must confess that when I came upon Greenmantle I sat up until the small hours of the morning bound to finish it. The King's Grace is a work of classic rank, and in the light of subsequent sad events it was given to the empire at a time of startling appropriateness. The sane, clear, inspiring literary works of Lord Tweedsmuir in their effect upon the building of the national character of Canada go far to justify the statement that the pen is mightier than the sword. And wherever he has so far been able to journey, whether it be the historic city of Quebec or my metropolitan city of Toronto or the outskirts of our mining fields of northern Ontario or Quebec, he has endeared himself to all our people. May I say that we look forward to a span of unusually happy years under the regime of His Excellency and his gracious and charming wife, the Lady Tweedsmuir.

I desire to congratulate the right hon. the Prime Minister on becoming Prime Minister of Canada for the third time.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. SLAGHT: May I add to that the distinction that our Prime Minister holds office by the mandate of the people of Canada expressed in more overwhelming terms and supported by a greater majority than that accorded to any prime minister since confederation. Not the least of the reasons for congratulation is the high quality and per-