

*The Address—Mr. Boisvert*

Governor General of Canada at the opening of parliament.

(Translation):

We were present yesterday at the opening of the first session of the twenty-first parliament. It is fitting to congratulate our leader, the Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent, upon his unprecedented victory. That victory is more personal than political. It is of course due to the fact that he is leading a party whose historical and political role had much to do with the development of our country since confederation, but his superior qualities, his deep understanding of public service, his frankness, his personal dignity have enabled that greatly esteemed and sought-after lawyer of Quebec to enjoy the confidence of the Canadian people to such a degree that today he embodies the entire soul of the nation galvanized in an ideal of peace and social progress. There have been few such examples in the world.

As I said, the right hon. Prime Minister has won a personal victory without precedent in our political history. His victory is also that of the family man, of the devoted husband, of the father devoted to his children, of the loving wife, of the children actuated by the finest feelings towards their father and mother. The right hon. Prime Minister has restored the value of the Canadian home, which is every day the target of renewed assaults. Divorce, separations from bed and board, dispersal of children, hatred between those who had chosen to love each other, abandonment of the paternal roof by children who too easily forget their parents, are endangering the very foundations of civil society and national life.

It is in our own homes that we must learn to acquire the true feelings of brotherly love as the basis of human relations and without which we cannot wish to love our fellows. There can be no international understanding without a natural inclination to love our fellow men. But this will become an impossibility if we let the family be destroyed, if we do not hastily restore in the Canadian home the same spirit and the same love which are found in that of the Prime Minister.

It is an extraordinary lesson of wisdom in our modern times, and a lesson of universal application. Let us note, however, that the evil is more deeply rooted elsewhere than in this country. I trust with all my heart that the lesson shall be understood by our young people. True creative happiness lies within the family. I wish to pay tribute to the right hon. Prime Minister for showing to the whole country the sacred character of

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the family, which so many known and secret agents are endeavouring to destroy.

The solemn and impressive ceremony which attends the opening of the session of a new parliament should not make us forget those which death has deprived of the fruits of victory. Two of our colleagues, Mr. McMillin and Mr. Michaud, have gone since June 27.

To the condolences of this house, which were so well justified, I wish to add my personal sympathy. Death has taken them, but they shall be remembered.

A great Canadian, the Right Hon. Mackenzie King, will no longer sit among us in this house. Each one of us could have benefited from his long and wide experience. His profound knowledge of the events that have marked Canadian life over the past fifty years would have been most useful to us, when the time comes to examine and solve the national and international problems that will be brought to our attention. May I say to him that his memory will forever live in our minds and that we hold him in such high reverence that he will always be among us. We will pray God every day to keep him in good health that he may for many long years remain among us, who respect and love him. I congratulate the government on the appointment to the cabinet of the representative of Lotbinière, the Hon. Hugues Lapointe, and that of Outremont-St. Jean, the Hon. G. E. Rinfret. The former is the son of the late Ernest Lapointe, with whom I was associated when I first began practising law. The latter is a nephew of the late Fernand Rinfret. Those names are well known in the political field and still fresh in the mind of every Canadian. Both were loyal friends of the Right Hon. Mackenzie King.

Another personality well known to all Canadians will no longer sit among us; I mean Mr. John Bracken. May I assure him that he still enjoys the admiration of all his fellow Canadians. We all regret his recent defeat. We will long remember his services to our country.

The electors of Nicolet-Yamaska were delighted to learn that the prime minister had chosen their member to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Many of them have asked me to express their thanks to the Prime Minister for the honour bestowed upon them.

The constituency of Nicolet-Yamaska is 70 per cent agricultural. Its people are mostly of French descent, its population of 35,000 numbering not more than 300 inhabitants of British or foreign origin. The riding, a flat open country, is watered by three large streams, the Yamaska, the St. Francis and the Nicolet, as well as by four smaller ones.