

Mr. IRVINE: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to amend section 77, subsection 2 of section 74, section 263, and section 299 of the Criminal Code. I may just explain that it provides for the substitution of life imprisonment in all cases where punishment by death is now the law. The bill was introduced last year, but it did not reach the second reading.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. F. L. KELLY, SECONDED BY MR. E. A. LAPIERRE

The House proceeded to the consideration of the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. F. L. KELLY (Cape Breton North and Victoria) moved:

That an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, offering the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament.

He said: I crave the indulgence of this honourable House for the imperfect manner in which I shall present such observations as I desire to make in connection with this resolution. I am a plain business man with all the limitations of such as a public speaker and as a consequence I trust the indulgence given will be the less restricted.

I am deeply sensible of the honour which has been conferred upon the great constituency of Cape Breton North and Victoria, which I have the honour to represent, by according to me the privilege of moving this motion. I am especially pleased to have this honour in view of the fact that during last summer His Excellency the Governor General, the representative in Canada of His Most Gracious Majesty the King, was pleased to come to eastern Canada, and during his tour to visit my constituency where, in North Sydney my native town, as mayor, I had the much esteemed honour and pleasure of welcoming him to my country and of presenting to him my fellow-citizens. The visit of His Excellency, the Baron Byng of Vimy, and Lady Byng, was much appreciated by all our people, and the solicitude, and sympathy displayed by Lord Byng for the returned soldiers and their relatives, served doubly to endear him, not only to the men of Canada whom he commanded on the battlefields of France and Flanders, but to all our people irrespective of race or creed; I may truly say the people of eastern

Canada are the better for his visit and that it was good for him to have been there.

It is customary, I believe, for a member to refer to outstanding features of his constituency. Cape Breton North and Victoria presents more diversified conditions than, perhaps, any other riding in Canada. Its industries are varied. In the first place we have the great industries of coal-mining and steel-making. The oldest coal-mining centre in America is situate within its boundaries; whilst its confines enclose one of Canada's greatest steel plants. Its coastal fisheries are extensive and prolific; and agriculture and lumbering therein are of primary importance. For this and other reasons, Mr. Speaker, the requirements of this constituency are many and varied as regards public works, aids to navigation, and increased public facilities in order that our industries may be more extensively developed, and our trade increased so that this constituency may, in short, come into its own.

From the business point of view the Speech from the Throne furnishes many substantial grounds for congratulation. It is gratifying to know that there are many evidences of increasing prosperity. It is pleasing to learn that whilst this country still reflects conditions many of which may be attributed to the great world war, every branch of industry gives promise of soon again being in a stable and wholesome condition. If I can judge the conditions obtaining in the business world of Canada to-day—and I presume to say I can—I believe there are indications, and many cogent reasons for believing, that Canada ere long will experience vaster and more profitable commercial developments than she has ever enjoyed in the past. In this connection, Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the people of Canada on having in power a government which has already restored public confidence to such a degree that business conditions have already improved, whilst the outlook for the future trade and development of our country is bright indeed.

Taxes are always odious, though at times necessary, Mr. Speaker, and for that reason a country should levy upon its citizenship only the minimum of taxation. That minimum should be assessed in the least obnoxious manner, and equitably levied upon those who can best afford to pay. However, I may say, capital should not be unduly harassed by excessive taxation, and the capitalist should be encouraged in his investments in every legitimate manner. Manufacturing industries can flourish and endure only where taxation and other costs are lightest, whilst the basic industry of agriculture can only survive when