

if I can have the consent of the house to do so, I shall substitute for the dates that are mentioned the corresponding dates one week later.

Motion agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY, MOVED BY MR. D. F. BROWN (ESSEX WEST) AND SECONDED BY MR. LEOPOLD DEMERS (LAVAL-TWO MOUNTAINS)

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the session.

Mr. D. F. Brown (Essex West): In rising to propose a resolution of appreciation to His Excellency, the Governor General of Canada, for his gracious speech addressed to both houses of parliament, the people of the constituency of Essex West, which I have the pleasure to represent in this house, are honoured and privileged to join with Canadians from the Atlantic to the Pacific in our tribute of loyalty and affection to His Majesty, George VI, our king, and his gracious consort, Queen Elizabeth. We do this, not with a feeling of subservience or subordination, but with the dignity of fidelity and allegiance.

We recognize and admire the attitude of sincerity which Their Majesties attach to their high office, their kindness to the problems affecting their millions of subjects, their thoughtfulness of those afflicted, and the standard they have set for the world in their domestic lives by the grace, gentility and simplicity of their home living.

Canadians in all walks of life have learned with rejoicing of His Majesty's recent recovery from a serious physical disorder, and have breathed a prayer of thanksgiving for his restoration to health and strength. We humbly express to him our sympathy in the discomfort and suffering which he has endured, but are consoled by the promise that "the darkest hour precedes the dawn".

The British commonwealth of nations for many years has looked, hopefully and expectantly, for word of an heir to the throne. On November 14, 1948, this long awaited promise was fulfilled in the birth of "wee Bonnie Prince Charlie" to Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. To the parents of the baby, christened Charles Philip Arthur George of Edinburgh, we extend our sincere congratulations. To the baby, all Canada extends its hope and prayer for a lifetime of health for himself, happiness with his family, and success in his relationship with his loyal subjects.

The year just passed has brought many changes in our national life and personalities. The Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, who had held office longer than any other prime minister in the British empire, retired from his post as Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal party. Mr. King's dynamic leadership of the House of Commons, his unbounded energy in upholding that which he thought best for his country, and his unfailing courtesy, thoughtfulness and kindness, will always be an inspiration to the members of this house.

A man of peace, who abhorred war, he led Canada victoriously through the bitter storm and strife of conflict into the calm harbour of peace and prosperity, with distinction to himself and with honour to his country. His career of self-sacrificing service will be a beacon light to the youth of Canada for generations yet unborn. His followers will remember his uncanny insight and perspicacity; the opposition will remember him for his vigour and tenacity; but the little people of Canada will remember him as their friend and champion. History will be very kind to William Lyon Mackenzie King.

During the past year the hon. member for Neepawa (Mr. Bracken) found it necessary to retire as leader of the official opposition. During his term the hon. member endeared himself to all members of this house, regardless of party affiliations, by his warmth of friendliness, his vigour of opposition in the house, and his courtesy and affability outside the house. We wish him well.

On the turning of the pages of the history of this house, we are now proud to have as our leader one who is truly a Canadian of distinction—Right Hon. Louis Stephen St. Laurent. Mr. St. Laurent, having heard the clear call of duty, has rejected personal placid interests to accept the highest post of service to his country—that of Prime Minister. In this arduous position he will have every opportunity of displaying to the fullest extent his widely known powers of conciliation and sagacity. We on this side of the house are privileged to serve under his benevolent direction and admonition. May Canada continue to prosper and expand in stature among the nations of the world during his term of office.

It has been said that a government is as strong as its opposition. We are also welcoming a new leader of the official opposition, who comes to this chamber with many years of experience as premier of my own province, the province of Ontario. He has shown much energy and aggressiveness in his public career. We trust that his leadership of the opposition will be vigorous and constructive.