

we also expressed our sincere regrets. However, we are very happy indeed to see that Senator Bouffard has taken his place. I am sure we all feel that the business of the chamber is in very good hands.

There are always changes at the beginning of a session and more particularly at the opening of a new Parliament. We are pleased indeed to see you, sir, occupying the Chair as Speaker of this chamber. We have been very fortunate in the Senate—as indeed has been the House of Commons—in the choice of Speakers. They have all been very able and popular men. Our last Speaker (Hon. Mr. Bourget) was very highly esteemed, and I know that the present incumbent will be as fair and just in his decisions as was his illustrious predecessor. We all wish him the very best.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: I mentioned the Speaker in the other place. I do not think it amiss to say that I have often pitied the Speaker in the other chamber. His is usually a difficult task, and it has been so especially with minority governments in the last two years. However, in the Senate the Speaker has a much easier time. The position is an honourable and responsible one, but I believe that taken in all it is a pleasant task. Senators seem to be very easy to get along with. I have been here for five years now, and I have not heard or seen anything untoward in the Senate.

Honourable senators, I now come to the mover and seconder of the address. I am sure all will agree that both made excellent speeches. I did not wholly agree with all the material that was contained in their speeches—that is not to be expected. I think they were a little biased and slanted in favour of the Government, but I am not quarrelling with that in any way.

We are all well acquainted with Senator Gouin. He has been here for a great number of years. He has taken an active and commendable part in the public life of his native province and that of Canada. We know what to expect from him: we expect the best, because he has always given the best.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: After listening to Senator McDonald yesterday, I am satisfied that he will make a very good senator. He is a fine speaker and presents his case well. Indeed, he must have received good training in the Saskatchewan Legislature. I might also point

out at this time, that he has joined an outstanding group of men in the Senate, both past and present. Senator McDonald has served as Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan. I recall that at the time I was appointed to the Senate in 1960 two of our number were former provincial Ministers of Agriculture. As honourable senators will remember, both the late Senator Austin Taylor, who was from my native province of New Brunswick, and the late Senator John A. McDonald, from Nova Scotia, made wonderful contributions to the debates on agricultural matters. I feel certain we can anticipate a similar contribution from our new member, Senator McDonald.

Honourable senators, we have also in the Senate other men who are greatly interested in agriculture and, as I say, he has joined that group. Sitting to my right is Senator Aseltine who, besides being a distinguished lawyer, has been a highly successful farmer. We also have from western Canada Senator Pearson, who has made a great success of farming. From Nova Scotia we have my good friend Senator Welch, an outstanding Maritime farmer. I could name others. Perhaps I should mention the honourable Senator Roebuck who, I might say, is one of the gentlemen farmers of the Senate.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: He is an agriculturalist.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: I hope so.

It is obvious that most honourable senators are pleased to be back, to greet their old friends—and we always have a most friendly reunion—and also to meet the newly appointed members of the Senate. Frankly, I had expected there would be many more new senators. There are some vacancies, but I suppose they will be filled in due time.

May I, as a former colleague and associate of the honourable Senator Benidickson, tell him how pleased I am to see him sitting among us, and in the front row of the Government benches. Senator Benidickson was one of the outstanding members of the House of Commons, a good debater at all times and one to whom we were always very pleased to listen.

A few days ago mention was made of some of the resignations from the Senate. I intended to say a few words at that time, but what I had to say was largely said and better said by the Acting Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Bouffard), Senator Kinley and others.