

Of course, I am extremely pleased at the very kind words uttered by the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Brooks) and Senator Macdonald (Brantford). My lack of experience will no doubt cause me to appeal to both sides for your collaboration in the execution of the difficult duties I shall have to fulfil.

I want to pay a special tribute to Senator Vaillancourt, and I will do so in his mother tongue.

[*Translation*]:

Honourable senators, I had hoped that the leader in the Senate would have been here to express to Senator Vaillancourt his admiration and his thanks for the services he has rendered as Deputy Government Leader for so many years. In the absence of the leader, it behooves me to do it, and I am pleased to pay tribute to the valour of Senator Vaillancourt.

As far as I am concerned, he deserves but one minor reproach and that is to have left a rather heavy burden on the shoulders of his successor, your humble servant. However, I am sure he could not help it, for he has never shirked any work or task which his many activities imposed on him.

It is on behalf of Senator Connolly that I thank him for all the tasks he has taken upon himself in order to carry out his duties with ability and dignity. Senator Connolly would want to express himself his deep gratitude to him.

I have known Senator Vaillancourt for almost 40 years. This is not to make him look older, but it will not make me feel younger either. His devotion to duty, his competence and his great dedication have earned him well-deserved praise from all those associated with him. He has always been the great protector of the little people.

Many years ago, his work on behalf of the maple producers was very valuable for the members of the recently established association. The maple producers of the province of Quebec, working individually and without cohesion, with little or no markets for their products, were beset every year by numerous ills. The production was often of a very low quality and there was no organization to improve production and merchandising in Quebec and elsewhere. For years, he worked to unite the producers and to raise the maple sugar quality and value to unprecedented levels. He organized a profitable market

which spread not only within the province of Quebec but here and there throughout the world, and mostly in America.

In the field of the *Caissees populaires*—and this is where he was at his best—he did everything to convince the citizens of his province, more particularly the workers and the farmers, of the dangers of hiding their money in a woollen sock; he made available to them, in the remotest areas, safe places to deposit their savings.

In that field he also made credit available to those who needed it and did not have ready access to the financial institutions able to meet their needs.

Here, in the Senate, his courtesy made him one of the most popular members. Each time the occasion arose, he gave the help he could give on account of his post and, among the qualities which all the members of the Senate were to appreciate was the great courage he showed in any debate concerning the rights of his compatriots, as well as in all matters dealing with the part finance should play with regard to little people.

We are very happy to keep him with us; even though he had to relinquish, on account of his health, a burden which he felt had become too heavy, he will keep on helping us to promote the public interest in all matters, very complex at times, which we have to deal with. On behalf of our leader, I congratulate him on his wonderful career. I thank him for what he did as deputy leader and, in my name and on behalf of our leader, I hope he will remain with us for a long time to come.

[*Text*]:

I feel greatly honoured at having been designated as Deputy Leader of the Government, and I wish to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Prime Minister, who has shown such confidence in me. I pledge myself to fulfil to the best of my ability whatever additional duties may be assigned to me by virtue of my new role.

Honourable senators, as you all know, the Senate will be for a short while without its customary leader. I know all of us entertain for Senator Connolly the highest admiration and affection, and we wish him a speedy return to his place here with us.

I know, too, that we will sorely miss his skilful leadership. It will be my responsibility as Deputy Leader of the Government to serve as acting leader in Senator Connolly's absence. I, of course, will do my utmost to discharge this responsibility, but I have no