

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

VACANCY

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER FOR THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF PARKDALE

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following letter:

150 Balmoral Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario,
March 30, 1946.

To the Speaker of the House of Commons,
Ottawa, Canada.
Honourable Sir:

I, Herbert Alexander Bruce, member of the House of Commons for Parkdale, declare my intention to resign my seat as such member, and hereby resign my said seat.

Dated at Toronto this 30th day of March, 1946.

Herbert A. Bruce.

Witness:

Olive E. Donnelly
Betty L. Stewart

I shall issue my warrant to-morrow for a new writ for an election in the electoral district of Parkdale.

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Parkdale, whose letter you have just read, wrote me also and asked if I would be good enough to read his letter to his associates in the House of Commons. With your permission and with the indulgence of the house I trust I may be permitted to do so now. It is as follows:

John Bracken, Esq., M.P.,
Leader of the Opposition,
House of Commons, Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Bracken,

It will not be a surprise to you that by concurrent mail I am tendering my resignation to the Speaker, for you knew of my determination not to be a candidate in the last election until I yielded to your urgent request and that of my executive committee. Having accomplished what was requested of me under the special circumstances existing at that time, I think it is now clear for the very same reason that I should not continue longer to sit in the House of Commons.

May I recall that I only consented to be a candidate in 1940 when it was impressed upon me that this provided an opportunity to render actual war service because of the absence of so many of our younger men in the armed forces. The war was still continuing at the time of the general election last year and the same arguments were presented. Now, however, the situation has changed because the war has not only ended but we are nearing the completion of demobilization and the reason which impelled me to contest the last two elections and to occupy my seat in the House of Commons no longer remains. I am therefore happy to step aside and give place to some younger man, preferably a veteran, whose experience during

the war will give him special qualifications for further service to his country in the difficult years of peace which lie ahead.

May I assure you that I have found parliamentary life and its diversified concerns with matters of outstanding importance to national and international well-being, both satisfying and on occasions exciting. I am grateful for the widened horizons it has offered to me and for the many new friendships it has brought on all sides of the house.

With warmest regards to you and every member of our party in the house and all good wishes for your future success.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Herbert A. Bruce.

I do not know what the usual procedure is on an occasion like this, but perhaps the house would permit me to say a brief word of comment with respect to a matter which comes very close to me personally. I have known Doctor Bruce for three years, have worked with him intimately for over a year, and have always found him to be a loyal associate, a courageous public servant, a man who took his duties seriously and one who represented his constituency as faithfully as he knew how. As he resigns his place among us I wish to add that he will take away with him the best wishes, certainly of all his associates in this party and, I think I can say on an occasion like this, the best wishes of all members in all parties in the house. I am happy to have this opportunity of paying a word of tribute to a man who was not young when he came here, but who early in the war entered parliament out of a sense of public duty when large numbers of younger men were required for service in the armed forces.

Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken) in wishing the Hon. Doctor Bruce, who, I regret to learn, has left this company of statesmen, a very happy and prosperous future. He had a distinguished career; he was a most distinguished physician and surgeon. He served with great dignity in representing His Majesty as lieutenant governor of the province of Ontario. He paid most assiduous attention to his duties in this house, and made valuable contributions to our discussions and debates. So from the opposite side of this aisle I would join with the leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition in wishing happy years to our friend Doctor Bruce.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, though on the same side of the aisle but further away we also would like to associate ourselves with the leader of the house in regretting the resignation of Doctor Bruce from the House of Commons. I knew