

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: In reading over the membership list I also noticed that there are two new members. One is a new member of this house, and the other is the honourable senator from Halifax-Dartmouth (Hon. Mr. Isnor). I am told that he has agreed to serve on this committee, that his name was not put on the list without his consent. I want to assure him that I appreciate, as I know all members of this house do, the fact that he is prepared to give his time to this very necessary work, especially when he is so busily engaged in so many other activities of this house.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Honourable senators, I was more interested in the Speech from the Throne this session than at any other time since I have been a member of the Senate. I notice that on this occasion, for the first time in my memory, the Senate was mentioned twice in the Speech from the Throne, and both times in connection with very important legislation.

I will read one of the paragraphs in which the Senate is mentioned:

You will be asked to consider a revision of the law controlling narcotic drugs in the light of the report of the Senate committee on the use of narcotics in Canada.

Honourable senators, I feel that this house, and more especially the chairman and members of that committee, rendered a splendid service to the country in making an inquiry into the very difficult problem of the narcotic drug traffic in Canada. As we know, the committee spent a long time on the matter, heard evidence not only at Ottawa but at other points, and studied the evidence thoroughly before making a report. Its report has not been pigeon-holed; on the contrary, it is the basis of the Narcotic Control Bill, which was introduced in the Senate last week.

May I read from the Speech from the Throne the other paragraph in which the Senate is mentioned:

It is proposed to recommend in the Senate the establishment of a committee to consider what should be done to make better use of land for agriculture and thus to contribute more effectively to the improvement of agricultural production and the incomes of those engaged in it.

The Leader of the Opposition suggested yesterday that the inquiry would be confined to eastern Canada. I do not see any such limitation in that paragraph in the Speech from the Throne. It is possible that the committee will feel it is desirable to make inquiry in eastern Canada first, since we already have on the statute books an act known as the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, under the provisions of which considerable land, I understand, has been improved

and reclaimed in order to bring about a better production of crops in the west.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Yes, that is true.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Those who are familiar with the workings of that act will be able to render considerable assistance to this committee when it is set up. I would like to assure the Leader of the Opposition now that, so far as I am concerned, I will surely recommend that some members of this house from western Canada should serve on that committee.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: There are in this house a number of members especially well-qualified to serve on this committee. Some of them have been here a number of years, and several who have recently joined us can be termed specialists in agriculture. Probably three of them will qualify as farmers. For instance, from the west there is Senator Boucher. And from central Canada there is Senator Bois, Doctor of Agricultural Science, who is President and General Manager of the executive council of the Co-operative Federation of Quebec. I know, from his speech of last Tuesday, that he has taken a great interest in the subject which will be considered when this committee is set up. The third new senator whom I have in mind is Senator Taylor, from New Brunswick. At one time he was Minister of Agriculture for that province; indeed, my honourable friend the senator from Kings (Hon. Mr. McDonald) remarked to me the other day that our new colleague was the best Minister of Agriculture the Maritime provinces had ever known. I told him I would accept that statement with one reservation, and that was with respect to the senator from Kings himself, who was formerly Minister of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. Hawkins: And a good one.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: I cite these names merely to indicate that there are in the Senate men well qualified to carry out this important work.

While I am mentioning the Maritime provinces may I also refer very briefly to the Gordon report. I do not intend to discuss that report today; but I have been quite concerned with what I have heard and read in the press with regard to the findings of the commission, more particularly as they relate to the Maritime provinces and, specifically, to Nova Scotia. I do not gather from the report that the commission recommended a wholesale removal of people from the Maritimes to other parts of Canada. I do not think that