

reminded that one represents a province wherein lives a large portion of the people of one of our two great races which have lived together in what is perhaps an unexampled state of good will, and the other represents a formerly separate country which, perhaps naturally, relinquished with a certain amount of regret a degree of its sovereignty to become part of the Dominion of Canada for the greater good of all concerned. Those two individuals typify a great meeting of the minds of men which will, through the years, have a profound effect on civilization.

I welcome those honourable senators who come to us from, if I may use the expression, old Canada, and also those from the new province of Newfoundland. I am sure the people of Canada extend to you a welcome hand. Coming as I do from the province of Nova Scotia, where in the old days public opinion did not take too kindly to confederation, I can perhaps extend a warmer welcome to the members of Newfoundland. I hope you have made no mistake in joining with us, and I am sure we did not err in inviting you to become our tenth province. As has been so eloquently stated, it was the people of Newfoundland and their outstanding characteristics, and not her natural resources, that brought us together. We wish you well, and we know you will contribute much to this great country.

I wish to say a word of appreciation to the honourable leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig) for his remarks concerning myself. Our relations in this house have been very happy. We all know that he enjoys a position of prominence in the business and professional life of his community, but some honourable senators may not know that he is a chief of the Sarcee Indian tribe. Also, he is a famed curler. One is surprised that a man of his many parts and qualifications should sometimes fall by the way in political matters. Nevertheless, his great contribution as the leader of the other side of this house strongly outweighs any possible failure on his part to see clearly in political questions. I wish to express publicly my appreciation to him and to his deputy leader for the special contribution they have made to the work of this house in the carrying on of a most arduous committee. At the commencement of each session I am terrified by the fear that these honourable gentlemen may, as they very well might, wish to be relieved of their responsibilities in that respect. Needless to say, when committee chairmen have been appointed I breathe a sigh of relief. For the information of honourable senators I may say that at the opening of this session the honourable leader opposite expressed, for the first time, his wish to be relieved of his

heavy duties as a committee chairman. I had no argument in answer to his protest, because he has served faithfully and well. I did, however, say that if he would continue for this session I would do all I could to see that he was relieved of these duties at the end of the session. I express my appreciation of his co-operation, and I hope that some solution of the problem will be found.

**Hon. Mr. Farris:** Make it clear that reference is to the divorce committee.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** I recently had the great pleasure of hearing a senior member in the other house state that the government is now prepared to provide the Prime Minister of this country with an official residence.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Robertson:** I referred in this house once before, I believe, to this very matter. I have always felt very keenly about it. I believe that most people thought long ago that such provision should have been made, although it may be that formerly it was less urgent. But no matter who is Prime Minister of Canada, the great and honourable position he occupies should be fittingly recognized. More and more, people of prominence in other lands are visiting this country. While wealth is no bar to being Prime Minister of Canada, broad and long, down through the years our Prime Ministers have not been men possessed of ample means; and to my mind it is grossly unfair that a man who, perhaps at much sacrifice, has accepted the call to assume these great responsibilities, should also be burdened with the necessity of providing himself and his family with a home here for whatever period he may be in office. I believe I can say without political bias that this consideration applies particularly to the present incumbent, the Right Hon. Mr. St. Laurent. At his time of life he might well have declined the responsibility of leadership and returned to the practice of a very lucrative profession; but at the request of his party he continued in political life as leader. I am most hopeful that this provision will be made in the very near future.

I want to thank the leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) for agreeing that I should continue the debate at this time, following my unavoidable absence a week ago. Had I, as is the custom, risen to speak immediately after the speech of the leader opposite, I should have devoted quite a little time to the subject of the trade crisis, which is sometimes, though improperly, called the British trade crisis, because its scope is wider and affects us all. However, after reading in *Hansard* the excellent speeches on this subject which were delivered in this chamber by various honourable senators, and having observed the