

perfect honour, his passion for work, his great legal abilities, his devotion to the welfare and prosperity of Canada and the maintenance among her people of justice and mutual understanding—to this Chamber I wish to declare that even after his death I retain towards him the same affection and loyalty.

I cannot recall without emotion that solemn day when I entered this Chamber for the first time and was introduced by my venerable friend. From that time forward I looked upon him as my natural leader. Having stood beside him as a fellow representative of the French-speaking minority of Ontario in this Senate of Canada, I deplore his loss more deeply than probably any other senator.

His soft, kind and sympathetic voice is now for ever silent. No more shall I hear his wise counsel, encouraging, inspiring, at times even moderating, my humble parliamentary efforts.

Senator Belcourt's life was one of unflinching devotion to the causes he had at heart. Among them it is sufficient to mention the survival of his own people as a distinct racial group in this vast British dominion. He has now passed into history. His name will be hailed by future generations with all the respect that is due to an earnest and brilliant legislator, a distinguished citizen, a valiant patriot, a true Christian, and especially with all the veneration that is accorded to the memory of a man who has spent himself in the service of the great and noble cause of education. Among his own people his finest title to honour will be his constant and untiring zeal in defending their rights, their language and their cultural traditions. It is precisely for this reason that I have desired to make these few remarks in the language that he spent his life in defending, a language that has its origin in the finest civilizations of the world, a language that is free to be spoken in this Chamber and in every nook and corner of this broad Canadian land.

And now, peace to his ashes! Yes, may he sleep in peace, our dear departed colleague, in his native soil, to which he was always faithful and which to-day repays his faithfulness by tenderly enfolding his mortal remains for evermore. He is gone, but the remembrance of his character and worth will endure; his memory will remain as a noble inspiration and permanent example to those who come after him, especially to those upon whose shoulders rests the heavy responsibility of continuing his work.

May I venture to entertain the hope that whoever takes his place in this Chamber will be, in heart and mind, in justice and faith, like him for whom we mourn, and will be devoted to the same causes that he held dear.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. PASCAL POIRIER moved that an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious Speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament.

He said: (Translation) Honourable members of the Senate, it is always a perilous honour to propose the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The task is particularly formidable when, as happens on the present occasion, the measures on which we shall have to legislate are indicated rather than defined. Let us take first the Imperial Conference. We know that a fiscal agreement has been arrived at between Great Britain and Canada; but we do not know yet, at least in the Senate, the precise nature of that agreement.

As to the Conference itself, we are already in a position to say that it has been a great success. His Excellency notes this fact and rejoices. We rejoice with him.

There are two ways of looking at the Conference—its economic results for Canada and other members of the British Empire, and the lead it gives to the world in its march towards a higher civilization and world peace.

As for the economic success, it can scarcely be doubted: factories are opening up, railway earnings are on the increase, business is resuming its normal course, optimism has revived, prosperity is returning and is knocking at our door. From that angle we have but to congratulate ourselves.

But there is the fact of the Conference itself to be examined.

A group of nations meets in an exclusive conference and decides upon commercial advantages from which the rest of the world is excluded. Is there not in this something to arouse suspicion—even to alienate the rest of the world?

"What does it matter?" the Jingoists will say. "Are we not free to act as we wish, and powerful enough, when all united, to ignore the rest of the world? The British Empire covers nearly one-quarter of the area of the globe; its population is 460,000,000 out of a world total of less than 2,000,000,000; its trade, import and export, is greatly in excess of that of any other country.

"The world, since its origin, has never witnessed anything equal in resources and power to the British Empire, in the twentieth