

I mention this only to emphasize the point that if more of our citizens who are engaged in business and professional life would give as much attention to public affairs and community improvement as was given by the Little family of London, Canada would be much better off.

HON. ARTHUR MARCOTTE

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY FELICITATIONS

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: Honourable senators, I wish to inform you that this is a very important anniversary for one of our distinguished colleagues. The honourable senator from Ponteix (Hon. Mr. Marcotte) is celebrating to-day his golden wedding. We are all pleased to find him and his charming wife in good health and still young. May I, on behalf of his colleagues from the West, and, I am sure, on behalf of every honourable member of this Chamber, extend to both of them our sincere wishes for continued good health and many more years of happiness.

Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. ARTHUR MARCOTTE: Honourable senators, I sincerely thank my colleague from St. Jean Baptiste (Hon. Mr. Beaubien) for the kind references he has made to my wife and myself. What has just occurred here illustrates how, in life, happiness and tragedy are found side by side. No sooner had our expression of deep regret over the passing of some of our members been concluded, than good wishes for continued happiness were being extended to my wife and me.

For my family the last few days have been very happy ones. I have received many congratulations and good wishes. But let me assure you of one thing, honourable senators: none of these are dearer to me, nor will be more warmly cherished in my memory, than the sentiments just expressed in this Chamber.

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. J. FREDERICK JOHNSTON 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: Honourable senators, I appreciate the honour of having my name connected with this motion, and I offer my sincere thanks to the honourable leader of the House (Hon. Mr. King). I appreciate also the kind reception

accorded me by members on both sides of the Senate after my introduction here a few days ago. I realize that one in the position I am in at this moment is but an instrument to be used in passing on the honour. In this case the honour is intended for the great agricultural province of Saskatchewan, from which I come, and the good people of my old constituency who for so long gave to me their loyal support. I am particularly gratified at the honour done the province of Saskatchewan and its residents.

The basic industry of Saskatchewan, as all honourable senators well know, is agriculture, and the chief branch of this industry in the province is the production of wheat. That being so, Saskatchewan was harder hit in the period of drought than either of the other two prairie provinces. As a consequence of loss of crops in the years from 1929 to 1936 our farmers became very hard up, and thousands were forced to accept government assistance. During this period the provincial Government was not able to balance its budget. The Government did, however, get through the depression without repudiating any of its obligations, and to-day it is again showing surpluses instead of deficits in the public accounts.

If you were to go into the province of Saskatchewan to-day and talk to the local merchants, they would tell you that the farmers out there have more cash in their possession now than they ever had before. Probably this would not have been true to the same extent were it not for the fact that many commodities needed on the farms are not available. War conditions have forced the farmers of Saskatchewan to carry on with obsolete and, in many cases, almost broken-down machinery. People who can come through such a terrific depression as was suffered in this province, and once again fight their way back and up, as these people have done, are deserving of all honour.

Honourable senators, we are now in the fifth year of this war. I well remember the solemnity of the hour when honourable members of the House of Commons, of whom I was then one, were called upon to vote Canada into the war. That is a grave responsibility for any one to assume—the responsibility for taking action that it is known will lead to the sacrifice of the cream of our young manhood and womanhood, lives that are dear to all of us and that Canada can ill afford to lose. Canada did enter the war, and has now been prosecuting it for nearly four years and five months. In reference to the further prosecution of the war we find this passage in the Speech from the Throne:

The winning of the war clearly remains the first of all objectives. My ministers believe it is their duty to see that Canada's war effort is