

they have rendered a very great service. They have every reason to be proud of their work and to be encouraged to similar activities in future, because there is, in my opinion, a growing appreciation of the value of the services they have performed, and it is very noticeable how much comment has appeared this year in the press on the reports of this and other committees. I believe that the public response to their activities should encourage honourable senators to continue their work at the next session, and thereby assist in the development of public opinion. There remain some very great and important issues to which I would like to see the attention of the appropriate committees directed with the same energy, the same skill and the same faithfulness as has characterized the efforts of this and other committees which have rendered such excellent service.

The motion for the adoption of the report was agreed to, on division.

ROYAL STYLE AND TITLES BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. WISHART McL. ROBERTSON moved the second reading of Bill 449, an Act to provide for the Alteration of His Majesty's Royal Style and Titles.

He said: Honourable senators, the purpose of this bill is to delete the words "Indae Imperator" and "Emperor of India" from the style and title of His Majesty. As honourable senators are aware, a bill for the setting up in India of two independent members of the commonwealth, India and Pakistan, is now before the parliament of the United Kingdom and when this bill becomes effective the title of Emperor of India, which was added in 1877, will no longer be appropriate. In accordance with the recitals in the preamble to the Statute of Westminster, an alteration in the royal style and titles requires legislative action by each of the commonwealth parliaments, and for this reason the bill is being introduced into the parliament of Canada.

This bill, honourable senators, is relatively formal; yet I cannot but feel that the occasion is an historic one. Here we have a great development in the constitutional life of the commonwealth. To the accompaniment of what we may deem the smallest possible amount of trouble under the circumstances, three to four hundred millions of people are being given the same rights which we in Canada fought for in the past and now enjoy. As an evidence of the peculiar position we hold, we legislate as of right on the style and title of His Majesty. I believe that ours is

the first dominion that has taken this action; and for my part I welcome the fact and, in no mood of presumption, wish the new dominions every success. I have, indeed, no doubt of their success. The principle which has been followed by the United Kingdom in this regard is one of the great characteristics of British government; and whenever it has been invoked it has never failed to strike a responsive chord in the hearts of free men.

The motion was agreed to.

THIRD READING

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall the bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Now.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the third time, and passed.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL TAX RENTAL AGREEMENTS BILL

SECOND READING

The Senate resumed from Friday, July 11, the adjourned debate on the motion of Honourable Mr. Farris for the second reading of Bill 411, an Act to authorize the government of Canada to enter into agreements with the governments of the provinces pursuant to which, in return for compensation, the provinces agree to refrain from levying certain taxes for a limited period.

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Honourable members, this is a very important matter. Confederation was brought about through the difficulties experienced by the government of Canada of that day and brought about by a deadlock between Upper and Lower Canada. In both provinces opposing political elements were about equal in strength, the result being that the government would be in power for a year or six months, and then out it would go and a new one would come in. Finally the different political parties decided that the only hope of solution lay in a confederation.

I shall not trace the history of Confederation in detail. The four original provinces were Upper Canada, Lower Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Subsequently these provinces were known as Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. After a great deal of negotiation among them a compact now known as the British North America Act was agreed upon and passed. There is no doubt in my mind that without the special terms contained in the British North America Act, the provinces never would have formed a union. For instance, I doubt that the Maritime Provinces would ever have come into confederation if provision for the Senate had not been incorpor-