

man they chose was my good friend, Senator Ross Macdonald from Brantford, Ontario.

Senator Macdonald has received many honours. I suppose there are few men in Parliament at the present time who have had as many. He has been a minister of the Crown. He was Speaker of the House of Commons for many years. He was Leader of the Government in the Senate for a number of years. He was for a time Leader of the Opposition. I know that all senators share with me a deep feeling of regret that it was necessary for Senator Macdonald to relinquish his position as Leader of the Government in the Senate. We congratulate him again on the honours that have been accorded him, but we also congratulate him on the great ability and success with which he filled these difficult positions. I want to thank him personally for the kind assistance he gave me on different occasions when I was for a short time Leader of the Government in this chamber and afterwards when I became Leader of the Opposition.

While I am congratulating the former Leader of the Government, and while we are regretting that it was necessary for him to give up that position, we realize that in Parliament, as in life, there are many compensating features. One of the great compensating features today is the fact that the Prime Minister saw fit to appoint in Senator Macdonald's place Senator John J. Connolly, the present Leader of the Government in the Senate. I predict he will have great success. He has had considerable experience in the Senate. We all know that he is an eminent lawyer and an able debater, but, best of all, he has much common sense and he is a worker. I advise him, though, not to plan on staying in his present position too long because the winds of change are already blowing quite strongly through the country. We are told, and I believe it is a fact, that the writing is on the wall. But he need not worry, because while he will make a good Leader of the Government in the Senate he will make an equally good Leader of the Opposition when the time comes for him to take over that office.

Honourable senators, I wish to offer other congratulations. During the recess just before Christmas the former Speaker of this house became one of Her Majesty's Privy Counsellors. I am sure that that gave great pleasure to all honourable senators on both sides of this chamber. It is an honour that is given to former Speakers of this house. I must say that since I have been a senator we have been most fortunate in the men who have held the high office of Speaker. There have been three of them, and all have been excellent appointments. I want to say to my good friend, Senator White, that it is a great honour to be

one of Her Majesty's advisers. It is not probable, perhaps, that Her Majesty will be asking him for any advice, but if she does have need of it I am sure the advice he will give will be of the very wisest.

We have four new senators. With the exception of Senator Denis, of whom I have already spoken, they are more or less strangers to me, except by reputation. I knew of Senator Lang from Toronto because of his being a very outstanding businessman and lawyer in that city.

As to Senator Rattenbury from Saint John, while we live in the same province, our paths have not often crossed. He seemed to be travelling in an entirely different direction—what I always thought was the wrong direction. However, I am pleased to see him here; I am satisfied that he will enjoy the Senate and will make a great contribution to it.

We listened yesterday to Senator Cook. He comes to the Senate with a very high recommendation as a lawyer and businessman in his own province.

Statements were made in the newspapers regarding the three senators of whom I speak. In the case of Senator Lang, it was stated that he was organizer in the Liberal party in the last two general election campaigns. It was stated of Senator Rattenbury that he was president of the Saint John Liberal Association and an active organizer for the Liberal party. Of Senator Cook, it was stated that he was president of the Newfoundland Liberal Federation and an active campaigner for the party in that province. The road to senatorship seems to be through the gateway of being an organizer for the Liberal party.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): That applies to other parties.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: Not so noticeably.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West): Not now.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: Honourable senators, may I say a little now about the new members of the cabinet, although they are in the other place. When I was speaking last year, I mentioned that there were more cabinet ministers than ever before in the history of this country. Now we find that their number has been added to again. We have all heard the criticism made that we have quantity but not quality.

I know that people in many parts of this country were disappointed when the new cabinet was announced. It was expected that some of those whose weaknesses had appeared would have been moved to other portfolios, or other changes would have been made. Nothing was done in this connection.

We have 26 ministers and 16 parliamentary assistants. That represents almost 50 per cent