

of Commons, and it has been our constant effort to improve it. Occasionally we have held up what we regarded as hasty or ill-considered legislation, but in the course of its existence since Confederation the Senate has not often exercised its power in that regard. Sir John A. Macdonald visualized the Senate as a revising body which would deal rather sympathetically with ministerial legislation as emanating from the government of the day, having the confidence of the people; and I have always felt that the opinion of the Fathers of Confederation as to the role of the Senate was the proper one.

I know that sometimes one reads in the newspapers that the Senate is a useless body. Why is that statement made? It is because the Senate does its work without noise. But the revision of legislation does not necessitate a great flow of eloquence. Amendments are usually brought about by appeals to reason. If the public knew the really important work that has been done by the Senate, there would be, I think, very few objecting to its existence. To enumerate some of the measures that have passed under review in the Senate, I would mention the Railway Act, the Insurance Act, the Companies Act, the Bankruptcy Act and the Bank Act. I remember the revision of the Railway Act. The Bill remained in our committee for weeks, and when it was returned to the House of Commons it contained seventy-two amendments. The Minister of Railways and the Minister of Justice, after thoroughly examining those amendments, accepted sixty-eight of them, and at a conference between the two Houses as to retaining the others, my honourable friend from De Salaberry (Hon. Mr. Béique) was able to show the delegation from the other Chamber that our amendments were proper ones, and they were incorporated in the Act. I have mentioned these Acts because they represent the important work done by this body. The Insurance Act, which was introduced in consequence of an enquiry into the large companies of the United States, made under the direction of Mr. Hughes, now of the United States Supreme Court, had been studied by the House of Commons for a couple of sessions prior to its coming before the Senate at the opening of a new session; and it remained for the Senate to put the stamp of approval upon an Act which to this day is credited with being the best legislation of its kind on the statute book of any country in the world.

Speaking of the work of the Senate, I may say that I have been urging our friend the senator for De Salaberry (Hon. Mr. Béique)—who has thought that at his age he should retire from the practice of law—to give some

attention to preparing a review of the work of the Senate with respect to the legislation that has come to it from the House of Commons. I think such a review would make interesting reading, and I intend to ask my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) to join with me in encouraging the honourable gentleman from De Salaberry to undertake the work by affording him the little help that our staff in the Senate can give.

I can assure our new leader of our goodwill and full co-operation. The Senate is an independent branch of Parliament, and as such is jealous of its rights and privileges. During my long career in this House I have at times noticed that members of the Commons are apt to believe that the Senate is a replica of their own Chamber, and that affiliation with a party justifies interference and dictation. The right honourable gentleman, according to the newspapers, was on Friday last the victim of that state of mind, and I desire to express my sympathy with him in the false position in which he has been placed. The Senate is the sole guardian of its own honour. Last session, by unanimous resolution, we declared that it was the constitutional right of every senator to be heard by his colleagues in his own defence, and that to this end a special committee should be appointed at the next session of Parliament. To that policy we who sit to the left of His Honour the Speaker stand pledged.

I desire to congratulate the honourable gentleman from Alma (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne), who moved the Address, and the honourable senator from Saskatchewan (Hon. Mr. Martotte), who seconded the motion. The honourable senator from Saskatchewan has already been among us for some time and has become the friend of many. I am very happy to see the honourable gentleman from Alma called to this Chamber. He has been brought up in Montreal, and has moved in circles so very near to me that there is little of his life about which I do not know something. He has been a very good and active citizen, he has played a part in federal politics, and I feel that he is, and will be recognized as, a splendid addition to the Senate of Canada.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I see in the Speech from the Throne the statement that world conditions are beyond the control of the Canadian people. Verily this is a truism, but I may state here that in Europe we are held partly responsible for the present state of affairs throughout the world. I say this because in either 1928 or 1929 the International