

to section 11 of the said act. (English and French).

Report of work performed and expenditures made as of December 31, 1963, together with estimated expenditures for 1964, under authority of chapter 11, Statutes of Canada, 1962, respecting the construction of a line of railway in the Province of New Brunswick by Canadian National Railway Company from Nepisiguit Junction on the Bathurst Subdivision of the Canadian National Railway in southerly and westerly direction for a distance of approximately 15 miles to the property of Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corporation Limited, pursuant to section 8 of the said act. (English and French).

PRIVATE BILLS

THE GENERAL ACCIDENT ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA—FIRST READING

Hon. T. D'Arcy Leonard presented Bill S-8, respecting The General Accident Assurance Company of Canada.

Bill read first time.

Hon. Mr. Leonard moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Tuesday next.

Motion agreed to.

SCOTTISH CANADIAN ASSURANCE CORPORATION—FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Leonard presented Bill S-9, respecting Scottish Canadian Assurance Corporation.

Bill read first time.

Hon. Mr. Leonard moved that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Tuesday next.

Motion agreed to.

HON. W. ROSS MACDONALD, P.C.

FORMER LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT— EXPRESSION OF THANKS

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I crave your indulgence in order to thank you for the very complimentary references that have been made to my tenure of office as one of the leaders of this house. It will be noted that I have not referred to them as "flattering references," because I know you have all been most sincere. However, you must agree with me that your remarks have been overly generous, and I think you must further agree with me when I say that all that could be said has been said. May I take it, therefore, that those who have

spoken have spoken on behalf of all honourable senators, and in thanking you at this time may I assume I am closing the debate on this subject.

During the last ten years it has been my privilege to be one of the leaders of this house on one side or the other. That has been a great honour, but it carried with it also a grave responsibility. That responsibility, I am sure, I could not have carried over the years had it not been for the feeling of good fellowship and goodwill that has always prevailed in this house. Of course, we have had our differences, and they have been strong differences. We have had heated arguments, and speeches have been made with vehemence. Honourable senators have expressed themselves freely and strongly on the issues which they espoused. But, through it all I think we always maintained a proper sense of decorum and, in spite of our differences, the dignity of this house has at all times been maintained.

When I entered the Senate ten years ago Senator John T. Haig was the Leader of the Opposition. He was a man of wide experience. He had been a member of the Manitoba Legislature, he had been in municipal politics in Winnipeg, and he had been a member of this house for a long time. He was a doughty fighter for those causes in which he believed. Later, he was succeeded by a very dear friend, Senator Aseltine, who led this house during a time of great difficulty. I know that his task was not an easy one, but he led the house in a brilliant manner. He had at all times the respect and esteem of honourable senators, which he still enjoys today as a member on the other side.

Senator Aseltine was followed by another dear friend of mine, Senator Brooks, the present Leader of the Opposition in the Senate. Senator Brooks and I entered the House of Commons at the same time. There really was not much difference between us; the main difference was that for most of the time he was on the wrong side of the tracks and I was on the right side. He now leads the Opposition in this house in a good natured but firm manner.

Honourable senators, during all the years of my leadership, I had the co-operation of the leaders of the other side, and our friendship was always cordial. We usually agreed on the procedure which was to be followed in the Senate and at no time did any leader of the other party break his word with me. I had full confidence in them and I feel that they had full confidence in me. I believe that is one reason why the work of the Senate went along so smoothly. The co-operation which I received from them was typical of the co-operation which I received from all honourable senators. I am grateful to you for that