

during the eighteen or twenty years preceding my entry into the Senate had something to do with my entry here at that age. Our younger generation, which is facing life and beginning to mount the ladder at eighteen or twenty, might be interested in this. I attribute my entry here at thirty-six years of age to the fact that I fought seventeen battles for my friends in the province of Quebec before winning one.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: You retired on full pay.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It was all the time an up-hill fight, but an agreeable one. I may say that I was born under the star of that mighty Conservative leader Sir John A. Macdonald, under whose sway the province of Quebec remained for eighteen years and more. At the time I came into politics he was, and had been for a long time, Prime Minister of this country. When one's party has been in opposition for eighteen years one feels that it is a reform party. So we called ourselves; and I had come to the conclusion that the reform party's function was to advance ideas which, naturally, would be opposed by the Conservative party until they gained favour in the eyes of the great majority of the people and were adopted by that party. For eighteen years I felt that I belonged to a reform group which was destined to remain in opposition. Then, all of a sudden, in 1896, owing to the fact that the Conservatives had been for a very long time in power, that many of their brilliant leaders had disappeared, and that there was in the country a feeling of dissatisfaction such as naturally arises at certain times when the economic situation is not very favourable—all of a sudden the country turned to the Liberals, who had been so long in opposition. And it happened that we had as our chief the most charming leader I have known, a man who stood head and shoulders above his contemporaries in the province of Quebec, at all events: Wilfrid Laurier, as he was then known.

I remember having taken quite an important and interesting part in the struggle which brought Wilfrid Laurier to power. It chanced that in the following year, 1897, my father-in-law was leader of the Liberal party in Quebec, when we again swept the province, and presently I found myself sitting behind David Mills, R. W. Scott, and quite an array of senior senators who had entered this House in 1867 or a few years afterwards. They were men of the highest standing, who had played an important role in this country, men whose presence adorned the Senate, and I enjoyed to the full the privilege of contact

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

with them. Since then I have been a member here doing his duty, as I believe every other member does. I do not know of any colleague who, having a duty to perform, a mandate to carry out, does not give of the best of himself to fulfil the task. And such is all I have tried to do. I have never had a very high impression of my ability. I felt that I had some energy, and I have tried to employ it in doing my duty.

During the time that fate has willed it that I should be leader in this Chamber I have been supported constantly, daily, by the goodwill of every one of my colleagues, and none have treated me better than the leaders of the other side. I speak with affectionate memory of Sir James Lougheed, whom I really loved as a man. Now facing me is the Right Honourable Arthur Meighen. When he came into this Chamber, in 1932, I met him at the door, and he said to me, "Here is my enemy, worthy of my steel." I told him there were two important errors in that statement: that I was not his enemy, and I was not worthy of his steel. I added that I was his collaborator, that he would find there were really no party passions in this House, that nine-tenths of the questions coming before us were such as had to be studied, examined and weighed on their merits. I was happy to note that very soon after my right honourable friend came here he realized that the atmosphere and the function of this Chamber were not those of the House of Commons. I read with pleasure a speech which he delivered in Toronto, and of which he sent me a copy last week, wherein I found this very phrase, that the Senate must not be a replica of the House of Commons, and that if it were it should disappear.

I thank my honourable friends for their action this evening. When I was told, as I sat here, that such a resolution would be moved, I felt like objecting to its presentation, preferring to have the kind words, which I thought might perhaps be said, postponed until the time—which may come sooner than one expects it—when I shall have passed into the world of shadows.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

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## THE SENATE

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Wednesday, February 2, 1938.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.