

I did not know Senator Parent personally until he came to this House. He filled the high office of Speaker of the Senate well, in a dignified way and with credit to this Chamber. In presiding over our debates he was always fair and considerate to every honourable member.

Coming now to the late Senator Graham, may I say that I had for him a deep affection. It has been said that

The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones.

I do not subscribe to that, for I think the truth is rather the reverse. In any event, the good that our late colleague Senator Graham did will live after him.

I agree with all that has been said by the honourable gentleman from Westmorland (Hon. Mr. Copp) about Senator Graham. I do not know that I have met in all the time I have been a member of the Senate anyone who had a more kindly disposition, or a friendlier attitude towards all his fellow-members, whether they sat on the left or the right of the Speaker. Like Abou Ben Adhem, the late Senator Graham might well have said:

. . . I pray thee, then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow-men.

TEMPERATURE OF SENATE CHAMBER

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. J. T. HAIG: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called, I rise to a question of privilege. In the province of Manitoba for the last three or four weeks we have had temperatures as low as 46 degrees below zero. I fear that some of that Western weather must have reached this Chamber.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. P. R. Du TREMBLAY moved that an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious Speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament.

He said (Translation): Honourable senators, I take pleasure in stating at the outset that I very much appreciate the honour of being a member of the Canadian Senate. This is the highest legislative Chamber in our country,

Hon. Mr. BLACK.

and its members shoulder a great responsibility. I shall endeavour to be worthy of it. I rely on your help and your kindness.

This House has an important duty to fulfil. After the war it will be faced with a very great task. To my mind, one of the functions of the Senate should be that of a restraining body. It should be the House of common sense and moderation. In these difficult and troublous times, when many people look for something new and seem inclined to adopt dangerous theories which are a departure from whatever is good in democracy, this House could help to avert many dangers. The Senate can help to check subversive ideas which might be implanted after the war. We are already hearing something about them. Such ideas often fail to prove a blessing for the people. Many changes are being suggested; false hopes are entertained which would in the end bring about nothing but disappointment and frustration.

We should not forget that there is nothing new under the sun. Ever since the beginning of the world, many people have tried to put into practice various theories, each one of which would, they thought, bring about happiness, but each test has shown their impracticability. By nature, human beings have a craving for changes; they pursue an ideal of perfection. They never reach it, because perfection does not exist on earth.

Since nothing is perfect in this world, we ought to be satisfied with some degree of perfection. I believe that the economic system we have in the Dominion and the provincial spheres is capable of ensuring justice and happiness to all classes of our society. The democratic system affords to everyone the hope of bettering his position through his industry; it stimulates the eagerness to work through the reward of a reasonable gain; it respects civil and religious rights. Of course that system is not perfect; there are deficiencies and many imperfections, but such imperfections can be remedied and the deficiencies can be made good. There are frequently unfathomable injustices, but they can be remedied.

I know of no other system which by its very object and its flexibility is more calculated to suppress abuses and promote useful reforms. Our system of modified democratic government, if it were applied by men of goodwill, could ensure to the Canadian people good administration. The right-minded people of Canada rely especially on the Senate for the task of ensuring the triumph of sound demo-