

ourable Senator Dandurand, who was our leader for so many years, of carrying political affairs into this Chamber. I am only too glad to pay tribute to the Right Honourable Mr. Meighen also, for the way in which he acted during his period of leadership here. For most of that time he was supported by a very large majority, but he carried on in a very fair and open way, and I never had any complaint to make in that respect.

Hon. J. A. CALDER: Honourable senators, I should like to make reference to the last remarks of the honourable senator from Leeds (Hon. Mr. Hardy), about caucuses of members of this Chamber. Members on this side of the House have had frequent caucuses. After all, why is a caucus held? It is not for any political purpose, but to analyse some of the measures that come before us and to ascertain what our various viewpoints are. It is not for the purpose of having a united party stand one way or the other.

Hon. Mr. HARDY: I did not say that that had been done on the other side.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I know. But the honourable gentleman intimated it.

Hon. Mr. HARDY: No, I made no such intimation at all.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: The honourable gentleman intimated something about political caucuses, though he did not use just those words. I have been a member of this House for twenty years and have attended virtually every caucus held in that time. Let me say that I have never heard a suggestion, either from a leader or any other member, that those of us on this side of the House should act politically. Do I make myself clear?

Hon. Mr. HARDY: Does the honourable senator say that I even intimated such a thing?

Hon. Mr. CALDER: No, not at all.

Hon. Mr. HARDY: Then, don't read me a lecture, please.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I am not lecturing you on that point.

Hon. Mr. HARDY: Then I should like to know what this is.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: What I say is this, that since I have been here there never has been a time when every member on this side of the House has not been free to judge every question before us on its merits.

Hon. Mr. HARDY: Certainly.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I say that definitely and clearly. I well remember the caucus

Hon. Mr. HARDY.

which was held when the late Mr. Willoughby was appointed leader on this side. He said at that time, "I want it clearly understood by every member present that I shall at all times be free to express my opinion on any public question as my conscience guides me." That is the attitude which has always been taken by members on this side of the House, and I leave it to any honourable member over here to say if that is not so. I say this because our dear late friend Senator Dandurand prided himself on the fact that you senators opposite never held a caucus. You would be better off if you did hold caucuses; not political caucuses, but caucuses to discuss the principles and merits of bills coming before us.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: For goodness' sake, let us hear no more about caucuses. I repeat that all the caucuses that have been held on this side of the House since I became a senator have been non-political.

I agree thoroughly with all that was said by my honourable friend the leader of the House (Hon. Mr. King). The question that we were dealing with, before the interjection about caucuses, is one that has been before this Chamber ever since Confederation. I refer to the lack of work in the Senate. What are the reasons for that? Well, we know what the reasons are just now. We are living in a time of war. At present 90 per cent of the Government's work is directed towards the war effort. A large part of the actual law required to deal with the situation is enacted by Orders in Council and never reaches us at all. The amount of what might be called peace-time legislation that reaches us to-day is exceedingly small. This condition will continue until the war is over, and we may as well face it.

There is another reason. As a rule, Ministers handling public legislation are desirous that it should be introduced in the House of Commons. That is a natural inclination and is very difficult to overcome. We have had some instances where such legislation came to us first, and I think it can be said, and said truthfully, that the Senate gave full consideration to several important measures and amended them to good purpose. I do not think there can be any doubt about that at all. My honourable friend who leads the other side at the present time will have difficulty in overcoming the desire of Ministers to introduce their legislation in the other Chamber. Nevertheless, he may succeed in getting a certain proportion of that