

years of well-doing. "Well, Turgeon," he said, "throughout our lives we have never exchanged a sharp word." "Never," I replied.

I was hoping to have him beside me for many years to come—at least until he had completed his half-century in this honourable Chamber. But the decree of Providence is irrevocable.

Pascal Poirier is dead. His loss is deplored, I know, by every one of his colleagues in this honourable Chamber, and by all his friends. Yes, Pascal Poirier is dead. But his memory will be honoured in history and be cherished by many generations to come.

## 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. HORATIO C. HOCKEN rose to move 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: Honourable senators, the horizon is growing brighter as the weeks and the months pass. Therefore, I take it, the accuracy of His Excellency's statements regarding the improvement in conditions throughout the Dominion cannot be questioned.

We are slowly emerging from an unparalleled depression, and I am unable to find words adequately to express my admiration for the conduct of the Canadian people during this difficult period. With reduced incomes, they have succoured relatives, friends, and even strangers whose need was greater than their own. It is impossible to form an estimate of the extent of private benevolence, which has done so much to alleviate the distress occasioned by the enforced idleness of so large a proportion of our population. But it is known to the most casual observer that there has been a generous sharing of meagre resources with those who otherwise would have gone cold and hungry. In their private lives Canadians have shown a degree of consideration for the needy that is beyond the power of language to express. It must be plain to all thoughtful observers that in their public capacity—through the various forms of government—our citizens have gladly sanctioned expenditures of public money for purposes of relief to the very limit of their tax-paying power. The federal and provincial governments and the municipal councils have appropriated enormous sums to provide the

necessities of life for hundreds of thousands who without such aid would have suffered severely from want of food, clothing and fuel. It may fairly be said, therefore, that in their private and public capacities the people of our Dominion have met the unprecedented demands made upon them with a degree of generosity and sacrifice that is highly creditable to their sense of responsibility for the welfare of their less fortunate fellow-citizens.

In my opinion a tribute of respect and admiration is due to those who have been unemployed through this long, sorrowful period. They have resisted the appeals of revolutionaries who have urged them to take violent measures, measures that would wreck our institutions, in the vain hope of improving their social condition. Only those who have faced so black a future are able to appreciate the force of the temptations presented to them to destroy our social system, and to understand the full measure of restraint that they have imposed upon themselves to maintain peace and order.

In recognizing what all classes have done to win through these hard times, let us not overlook the patience and fortitude displayed by those who have, through no fault of their own, been deprived of opportunities to provide for themselves and their families. All honour to the men and women who have faced the humiliation of accepting relief, and with high courage patiently await the end of their trials.

That time seems to be drawing nigh. Conditions of labour are so much better that there is reason to hope we are on the way to complete recovery of industry, and a state of reasonable prosperity for all our people. This is being accomplished in Canada without the adoption of such adventurous policies as are being tried elsewhere. There is no plan that can restore prosperity overnight. Prosperity cannot be improvised. Slow, perhaps, but steady emergence from our valley of difficulty offers the best hope for the future comfort and happiness of the Canadian people.

The policy of Empire Preference adopted at the Ottawa Conference has done much to improve conditions in this country. But it has done more: it has brought us into closer touch with our fellow members of the Imperial family. And it has done even more: it has given the world a new idea. We are familiar with the policies of free trade and protection; at Ottawa was evolved the policy of reciprocal trade—of the self-governing Dominions trading one with another, on fair terms to each, for the advantage of all.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON.