

and her own merits, realize what a splendid appointment it is. I believe the Senate of Canada is to be congratulated on this appointment, and perhaps honourable gentlemen will allow me to express my sentiments on their behalf by congratulating her and welcoming her to this august Chamber.

Hon. CAIRINE WILSON (translation): Honourable gentlemen, it is not by my own will that I am here. My impression is rather that I am among you because my services have been requisitioned. Needless to say, I have not sought this great honour of representing Canadian women in the Upper House. To the Government that has called me I return my sincere thanks. May I also, on behalf of the women of Canada, express my profound gratitude to the Government for having facilitated the admission of women to the Senate by referring to the courts the question of their right to membership.

I cannot forget the valiant part that has been taken by those women who have carried our case even to His Majesty's Privy Council. Canadian women owe a debt of gratitude for their success to those determined women who so fortunately intervened in the discussion, and whose names I have the honour to mention: Judge Emily F. Murphy, Mesdames Henrietta Muir Edwards, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, and Irene Parlby.

I have always been interested in public affairs, for I was brought up in an atmosphere in which politics were the chief source of conversation and the great concern of all. Being a firm believer in the doctrines of Gladstone, Edward Blake, and Laurier, it was quite natural that I should give my support to a cause that was dear to me, without, however, forgetting my domestic duties. I say this because I desire to remove the misapprehension that a woman cannot engage in public affairs without deserting the home and neglecting the duties that motherhood imposes upon her. Sometimes I am amused to hear this argument on the lips of certain fathers who are utterly indifferent to the upbringing of their sons and leave that solemn obligation to the mother alone.

A man is supposed to devote his time to the material needs of his family. No one disputes his right to participate in public affairs. But does such activity relieve him of his duties towards his children? Yet we constantly hear mothers complain of the husband's indifference about the supervision and guidance of his sons.

I trust the future will show that while engaged in public affairs, the woman, the mother of a family, by reason of her maternal instinct and her sense of responsibility, will remain the faithful guardian of the home.

Hon. Mr. HORSEY.

I deem it a high privilege to address you in French. It is the language of the province in which I was born and grew up. I cherish tender recollections of my native province, the old French province of Quebec, where it is good to live, because of the broad spirit of tolerance that animates its people. In this connection I recall a thought that the honourable leader of the Government in this House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) expressed at the Assembly of the League of Nations in Geneva. Speaking of the problem of minorities in Europe, he asked that they be treated not merely with justice, but with generosity. "Let us deal with them," he said, "in such a way as to make them forget that they are minorities." I avail myself of this opportunity to declare with pride that the English and Protestant minority in Quebec has never been made to feel itself a minority in that province. I desire to pay this tribute to my native province and cite it as an example for the whole of Canada.

I shall not discuss to-day the various questions mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. With my honourable colleagues I shall consider them when they are submitted to us in the course of the session.

(Text) Honourable gentlemen, it was my wish to enter this Upper House as unobtrusively as possible, but this privilege has unfortunately been denied me. Women have come so recently into public life that promotion has been almost too rapid. In my own case I feel the lack of preliminary training, but hope during this coming session to show you that I am at least able to listen and, I trust, to learn.

In the first place, I should like to thank the Government for the honour conferred upon me in naming me as the representative of the women of Canada in this House, and to thank the honourable senators for the cordiality of their reception. It has always seemed to me that I might find written above the door the antithesis of Tennyson's line, "Let no man enter in on pain of death." I owe my appointment to the bravery of the five pioneer women from the Province of Alberta who took the plea for the admission of women to the Senate to the highest court, His Majesty's Privy Council: they are, Judge Emily F. Murphy, Mesdames Nellie F. McClung, Louise C. McKinney, Henrietta Muir Edwards and Irene Parlby. To them I tender my thanks.

In our criticism of the entry of women into public life we are apt to forget that four thousand years ago Deborah judged Israel; and although women have made great strides since then, not one of us aspires to such a