

to the crux of our troubles. We can make speeches all right, but I suggest that if some of our younger members, who are full of zeal, ambition and information, would put some resolutions on the Order Paper respecting matters that could be investigated by committees, there would be no desire for vacations on the part of members generally. I really feel that this House, with all its ability—which we all admit—will fail in its duty if it does not in this time of crisis get to work and endeavour to give some good advice as to the best way of getting the country out of its difficult position.

Hon. Mr. COPP: Honourable members, I am one of those who have to remain at Ottawa almost continuously during the session, but I am not offering any objection to an adjournment now or at any time when there is no business to be done in this Chamber. Of course, we are always glad to come to hear prayers by His Honour, if for no other purpose.

There is one question that I should like to ask. The honourable leader on this side (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) stated as one reason why we should adjourn to-night the fact that a number of senators were informed of the intention to adjourn for some time, and in consequence they have gone home. Now, why should this information be given to some senators and not to others?

The motion was agreed to.

HOSPITAL SWEEPSTAKES BILL

FIRST READING

Bill A, an Act with respect to Hospital Sweepstakes.—Hon. Mr. Barnard.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, February 20, at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Tuesday, February 20, 1934.

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE LATE KING OF BELGIUM

TRIBUTE TO HIS MEMORY

Before the Orders of the Day:

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable senators, in common with the other branch of the Parliament of Canada, and indeed all legislatures the world over, this

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM.

House learned with acute sorrow of the sad and sudden passing of His Majesty King Albert of Belgium. The circumstances of his early departure from life, precipitate and tragic as they were, have served to impress upon the world the unique character of the service he rendered humanity at a crucial hour in the history of the world.

None in this House can fail to recall the tension under which the people of every nation laboured in the terrible hours that preceded the advent of the World War, and the sensation of pride we felt, as members of the same human family, at the magnificent and heroic stand taken in that crisis by the little nation of Belgium. That her stand was inspired, not only by the heroism of her people, but also by the conspicuous gallantry of her King, has ever since been universally acknowledged. Belgium, of course, had no hope whatever of arresting the march of the millions of the German army, but, true to the instinct of self-defence, and determined that right should be asserted at whatever cost, she offered her sons on the altar of sacrifice and earned the everlasting gratitude of mankind. The King took his place at the head of his nation, both in council and in the field. His son followed him. The whole Belgian royal family became the heroes of their people.

It is impossible now to measure the service done by that heroic nation. No one can say what might have been the course of events had she not taken that stand, but if opinion at this hour could be sufficiently informed to render an intelligent and approximately correct judgment, it would surely be that but for Belgium's decision, one of the most momentous in the annals of time, the whole course and conclusion of the conflict would have been different. Therefore the name of King Albert remains in the minds of all, at least in the allied nations, a great name, to which we look back not only with gratitude, but with something approaching adoration. That we should now lament his demise is of course inevitable, and I am sure that this House, in common with the other House and legislatures the world over, extends its deepest sympathy to the Queen of Belgium and all the members of the royal family, and hopes they will ever know the admiration in which we hold the illustrious memory of the deceased monarch.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable members of the Senate, in July, 1914, two emperors, two mighty potentates, dominated the continent of Europe—Wilhelm of Germany, and his brilliant second, as he was