

then, and it is true to-day. In trying to master your language I had to work, and work hard, and this I have been doing not only because of a sense of duty to this country, but because I wanted to get to know you better, to understand you better, and to like you better.

Honourable senators, I have the honour to second the motion of my honourable friend from Alma (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne).

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable senators, it is perhaps appropriate to answer the kind remarks of His Excellency the Governor General, who spoke in such sympathetic terms of the welcome that he had received at the hands of the Canadian people. It was his first visit to our Chamber, and I am sure that I express the view of all the senators present when I say that it is our fervent hope that His Excellency and Her Excellency may fully enjoy their stay among us during their term of office.

We have had a change of leadership in the Senate, and it is my duty to take notice of it. Like the honourable members who proposed and seconded the Address, I desire, speaking for my colleagues on this side of the House, to express the hope that the honourable gentleman from Moose Jaw (Hon. Mr. Willoughby) may soon recover his health.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: He has been with us for a number of years. We have admired his qualities of heart and mind. Never has there been a ripple of unpleasantness between us in our daily contacts. We have met him on the floor of this House, we have met him in committee, and we have always appreciated the kindness with which he approached us and discussed whatever questions came before him for consideration. My honourable friend from Saskatchewan (Hon. Mr. Marcotte) has spoken of the honourable gentleman's career in that province. We were aware of the part that he had played in the West, and the knowledge he had gained through living there. I am sure his work will continue to bear fruit among us for many years to come.

My honourable friend from Welland (Hon. Mr. Robertson) was acclaimed as he returned to his seat. We were all very sorry to hear that he had been overcome by the weight of the burden placed upon his shoulders. I knew that it was no small task he had undertaken, for he would have to meet all the demands that might arise anywhere in Canada, and that the crisis which had been felt from coast to coast was coming to the nerve-centre, his own good self. Fortunately he has returned to our midst—I hope in good health. We will

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try to see that no heavy task is laid upon his shoulders if we can prevent it, and we know that we shall enjoy the benefit of the experience gained by him in the work of relief in which he has been engaged during recent months.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I may say, honourable members, that for a long while I have been expecting the presence among us of a former Prime Minister, a gentleman living in the Capital who had for some years directed the affairs of this country, and who, in the serenity of the Red Chamber, might continue his contact with public affairs. I refer to the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden. However, he has felt that as to politics he had closed his book, and has preferred to look on from afar, occasionally giving advice to the people of Canada.

Instead of facing the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden, I behold before me a former Prime Minister of Canada who is younger, and who seems to be full of vitality and aggressiveness. Perhaps it is his career that gives me this impression. Vitality and aggressiveness are not in my view defects or drawbacks. I should be the last to consider them as such, because for some time after I entered this Chamber at the age of thirty-six years I had the reputation of being somewhat impulsive. Unfortunately for the Senate, those who might have testified against me have, with one exception, disappeared. There remains but the one witness of my entry into this Chamber, the honourable member for Shediac (Hon. Mr. Poirier), who will be discreet, I hope, and not speak too harshly of my early years in the Senate. Impulsiveness does not avail us to any extent in this Chamber, because, as my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) will quickly observe, there is really no opposition here; there is no standing opposition to government measures. In other words, we are collaborators in the work of the Senate, and we are that by reason of the fact that we are appointed for life, are independent of the electors, and have not to consider any constituency as a special unit from which we hold a mandate. Unlike the members in another place, we do not address the electors; we are content to address ourselves to the question—which is much the briefer way. Long speeches, such as may protract the debate in the popular House, are not made here. The question is discussed thoroughly from one viewpoint or another, and we quickly reach a conclusion.

The main function of the Senate has been to revise legislation coming from the House