

and the motion of Hon. Mr. Bois, seconded by Hon. Mr. Smith (Kamloops), for an Address in reply thereto.

**Hon. W. Rupert Davies:** Honourable senators,—

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Davies:**—this speech is going to be an ordeal for me, but I trust not for you. I never get to my feet to speak to the members of this distinguished chamber without calling to mind an occasion when I approached a distinguished Conservative statesman and asked him if he would come to an opening meeting of a group of newspapermen at the Chateau Laurier. He replied that he would come on one condition—that he not be asked to make a speech. I said, "Surely you do not mind making a speech," as he confessed "I am scared stiff every time I get to my feet."

Well, honourable senators, there are a good many here who are not scared stiff of making a speech, and I am glad we have such members in this chamber.

I once had an editor working for me who in his younger days had a fine singing voice. He liked the sound of his voice so much that when he lost his ability to sing he took up public speaking, and went about the country giving addresses. I thought this was a rather good idea, especially when I found out that he received \$25 for speaking at a luncheon and \$50 for a dinner engagement.

We have all heard many fine orators. I recall the late Sir George W. Ross, who at one time was Leader of the Government in this chamber. When he spoke in public he had a man stand at the back of the hall with a handkerchief in his hand, which he used as a signal to indicate to Senator Ross whether he was speaking too loudly or too softly. I sometimes think that would not be a bad practice to follow in this chamber today. The Right Honourable A. J. Balfour, who was Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1902 to 1905, could sit and listen to his Government being scarified by the Liberal Opposition, with his head back, his arms folded and his eyes closed as if in prayer. When the Opposition concluded he would get to his feet, and without a single note, proceed for about an hour to tear the Opposition to pieces.

Mr. Lloyd George was a great orator in his day. The story is told of an occasion when he and Lord Birkenhead were attending a dinner, at which Lloyd George was unexpectedly called on to speak. Having no notes, he reached over and took Lord Birkenhead's notes, which were lying on the table in front of his lordship, and spoke

from them. I once had the privilege of hearing Lloyd George address ten thousand of his Welsh compatriots. He had what the Welsh call the "hwyl"—I only wish I had it. With his power of oratory he had those people almost tearing up the seats, and when he was finished they stood up and sang the Welsh national anthem at the top of their voices.

I had an old uncle whom the more dignified members of the family referred to as a character, and whom younger members sometimes referred to as an old card. In the days when our honourable Leader in this house (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) was a young boy going to public school in Brantford, my old uncle used to try to break the windows of the Liberal hall in that city, acclaiming the virtues of Gladstonian Liberalism. Nobody paid a great deal of attention to him, because the elections in Brantford were not fought over Gladstone and his policies. I once asked him to speak to a young people's group in the Congregational Church, now I believe the Presbyterian Church. He consented to come. I can see him now as he came in wearing an old frock coat, a heavy watch chain and a frayed pair of pants, for he cared little about dress. He commenced to speak at 8.30 in the evening on "The decline and fall of the Roman Empire," and at 11.10 p.m. I had to tiptoe up to the platform and tell him what time it was and that the people wanted to go home. Afterwards he chided me for having interrupted him in his train of thought.

Before I start talking about the Speech from the Throne I want to add my congratulations to those already expressed to the mover and seconder of the Address, the new senator from Montarville (Hon. Mr. Bois), and the new senator from Kamloops (Hon. Mr. Smith), on the excellent speeches they made. These honourable members are a decided acquisition by this chamber.

Whenever I hear new senators make their first speeches in this chamber I do wish that more people would come to the Senate and observe what goes on. I am sick and tired of criticisms of the Senate. A number of new senators were appointed last year and four more this year, everyone of them an experienced and outstanding citizen of this country, able to give practical expression to valuable ideas. Yet it has become a custom on the part of some people to poke fun constantly at the Senate. Many of these critics do not know anything about the Senate. How many members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery ever come to listen to what is said here? Most of them rely on *Hansard* and Canadian Press dispatches for information as to what we are doing.