

speech at the opening of the session and the motion of Hon. Mr. White, seconded by Hon. Mr. Méthot, for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. W. Rupert Davies: Honourable senators, I spent the night of June 10 last in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal. When I came downstairs on the morning of the 11th and read the *Montreal Gazette* I was reminded of a letter which Sir William Vernon Harcourt wrote to the Right Honourable H. H. Asquith, after the Liberal party's defeat in Britain in 1895. Those of us who are familiar with the history of British politics during the last sixty years will remember that Mr. Gladstone, who had been leader of the Liberal party for many years, and had been Prime Minister on several occasions, had resigned in March 1894. Queen Victoria, who did not like Gladstone, did not consult him as to whom she should appoint as his successor to the Prime Ministership, but she sent for her friend, Lord Rosebery, who, incidentally, would not have been the choice of the Party. However, he became Prime Minister, but suffered a severe defeat about a year later. He dissolved Parliament and there was an election, in which the Liberal party was very badly beaten. After the election Sir William Vernon Harcourt wrote to his friend Mr. Asquith, saying, "I expected the deluge, but not the earthquake." That is the way I felt on the morning of June 11. But Sir William Vernon Harcourt finished up his letter by saying, "We must put the boldest face on it we can." I think that was very good advice indeed.

Honourable senators, I want to say a few words on the Speech from the Throne, confining myself largely to one particular reference. Before doing so, however, I offer my congratulations to the mover (Hon. Mr. White) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Méthot) of the Address in Reply, and also associate myself with the remarks made by the mover with regard to our new Speaker. The Honourable Mr. Drouin is the fifth Speaker under whom I have had the pleasure of sitting since I came into the Senate. I extend him a most hearty welcome and I hope he will find his term of office interesting and enjoyable.

I listened with great interest, to the speech of the mover of the Address, who is the honourable senator from Frontenac-Hastings. I learned something from him that I did not know before: that the very able principal of Queen's University, Dr. William A. Mackintosh—Bill to his friends—came from the pretty little village of Madoc.

I was also greatly interested in the remarks of the honourable senator regarding the

Dominion Succession Duty Act. I have always felt that the \$50,000 exemption should apply to all estates. The unfortunate part of non-application of the exemption on estates of, say, \$55,000 or \$60,000 is that often the sufferers are the wife and children of the man who has died. As I have pointed out before, it does not seem right to me that the beneficiaries of an estate of, say, \$48,000 should benefit to a greater extent than the beneficiaries of an estate of, say, \$52,000. A straight exemption on the first \$50,000 would I think be much fairer. As honourable senators are aware, there is in the United States of America an exemption of \$60,000 which applies to all estates.

Before I speak briefly on one sentence in the Speech from the Throne, I want to express my own opinion of the situation which faces the Liberal Opposition in the Senate today. We have a larger majority numerically, but we are no longer the Government party. The Liberal Government appealed to the electorate on June 10 last, and when the votes were counted it realized it had been decisively beaten. This is no time for post-mortems. For one reason or another the Government lost a lot of seats and no longer found itself with the overall majority it had when it went to the country.

I do not think there has been any weeping or wailing in the Liberal camp. We all know that all the brains and ability are not centered in one party. I believe that the Liberal Government over the past 22 years gave this country very good government indeed. It is cheering to realize that not once was the breath of scandal heard against it. The Liberal Government may have been too cautious with the taxpayers' money—but, as I say, this is no time for post-mortems.

We now have a new administration. We all know most of the members of the new administration: we know that they are fine, honest Canadians, and I for one wish them well. How I shall feel about the way they have governed the country in two or three years' time may be different. The new Government will be bringing in many bills; many promises were made during the election campaign, and the Government is determined to fulfil them.

I am not sure in my own mind that what is being done with regard to old age pensions is wise. I have expressed my views on this subject before. I agree with the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, that we should have in this country a sound contributory old age pension scheme. How it is to be worked out, I do not know. Furthermore, I feel that ten years' residence is hardly enough qualification before men and women start to draw old age pensions. Perhaps 20 years is