

struck me as a very original and unauthorized way of making the statement that the honourable gentleman referred to had been appointed as a member of this honourable House. It does not appear to me that being appointed to this part of Parliament is being appointed to an office of emolument under the Crown any more than being elected as a member of the House of Commons. For a great number of years in the past it has been the custom of members of Parliament in the Mother Land to serve without any emolument whatever. It may be possible that in the future even members of the Senate of Canada may consent to attend to their duties without receiving any emolument. The point I make, however, is that the statement has been very incorrectly given to the public by His Honour the Speaker of the House of Commons, although I may say that it did not originate with him, but that he stated that the Chief Electoral Officer had received a communication to this effect, and had handed it to him.

I would like the honourable member who leads the Government to take note of the statement. I think it is one which should not be allowed to remain.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: If the statement departs in any way from tradition I will draw the attention of His Honour the Speaker of the House of Commons to it, so that he may take occasion to correct the form.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Hon. ARTHUR C. HARDY rose to move that an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer the humble thanks of this House to His Excellency for the gracious Speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament. He said:

In rising to move the reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General, I wish to express my very sincere appreciation to the honourable leader of the House for the honour which he has bestowed upon me in allotting to me the honourable and important duty entailed therein. I also beg to crave from the honourable members of this House the indulgence which one who has not the experience in public life is entitled to claim from those who are both experienced public speakers and parliamentarians, as so many in this House are.

May I be permitted, as one of the later members of this House, to compliment and congratulate the honourable leader of the House on the most capable and able way in which he conducted affairs during the last Session of Parliament. While he received many congratulations at that time—they were showered upon him, I remember—may I say that I think he has quite fulfilled all that was expected of him, as every one who knew him in his past career in public life would expect him to do.

Although I am on this side of the House, I am sure I shall not be debarred from extending my respects and warm compliments to the leader of the Opposition for the very able and gracious way in which he fulfilled the duties of his important and difficult office during the last Session of Parliament.

The Speech from the Throne foreshadows a large and important volume of legislation to be laid before Parliament at this its second Session, and undoubtedly this will be added to by many measures not therein referred to, as is usual. This means without doubt, particularly as some of the measures are bound to be more or less controversial, that we are faced with a long and arduous Session. I have no doubt, if we may judge from the demands that we have heard for the revision and improvement of the Bank Act from members of various organizations throughout the country, that that measure alone will take up a very large portion of the time of both Houses, particularly of the House of Commons. Personally I should be quite satisfied to see the Bank Act stand just as it is for another year. We are not treading the easiest paths, and anything that is going to move or shake our present financial status is a serious thing. I have no doubt that the Bank Act is quite capable of being amended, but it must be amended in a cautious and conservative manner.

We know that one of the chief things which shall be brought up for discussion will be the disaster to one of our large banks two years ago. I do not think that any Bank Act can prevent that kind of thing; I do not think any legislation that men can put upon the statute book will avoid it. We have first of all to depend absolutely and entirely upon the integrity and honesty of those in charge; and when I say that I do not wish to make any insinuations against the gentleman who was at the head of that bank and who was supposedly to have signed, and who, I believe, did sign, certain declarations. For my part I would give him all credit for having signed that declaration and for having sacrificed himself for the people of Canada and in