

Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, the honourable member for Ottawa East (Hon. Mr. Coté). It is nothing new for me to listen to him. I have heard him in the Legislature at Toronto. As usual, he made a very able speech in impeccable French. But it seemed to me that he felt he was fulfilling a rather thankless duty. However, I suppose he is a little confused by the Conservative party becoming mixed up with Socialism and Communism, and consequently his heart did not seem to be in his task.

I congratulate the honourable member from Saskatchewan North (Hon. Mr. Horner). The burden of his remarks seems to be that the farmers have lost a lot of money through high pressure salesmanship. Well, Western Canada had no monopoly of that; we had it too, in the East.

Now, honourable members, if I speak at some length to-night I cannot help realizing that this month I have been thirty-five years a member of this House. To-day there is only one face that was here when I entered the Senate. According to all the rules of probabilities, this may be my swan song.

Some Hon. SENATORS: No, no.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Therefore I crave indulgence of honourable members if I speak at length. I like the atmosphere of this House. As I have said, I have been a member so long, and I have always felt at home here. At the time of my appointment the Hon. David Mills was leading the House, and of course he was in duty bound to present me. But I had an uncle, Dr. Casgrain, of Windsor, Ontario, and he said to me, "I should like to introduce you." I said, "I shall be only too glad, but I will ask Mr. Mills." Mr. Mills was quite agreeable to the proposal. Dr. Casgrain was a Conservative, but he introduced me to the Speaker—also my uncle—Sir Alphonse Pelletier. Naturally, I felt quite at home. I had heard of the Family Compact before, and I had never been opposed to it. It was only those who were not in it who were against it.

As I walk around these halls I see the portrait of my great grandfather, the Hon. James Baby. On the recommendation of Colonel Simcoe he was appointed a Legislative Councillor by the King, and a member of the executive of the province of Ontario. It might be of interest to this House to know that he, I believe, holds the record for length of tenure of office as a member of the executive. Some people in Ontario might think it strange that a French Canadian should hold a portfolio in that province longer than anyone else. He was appointed in 1791

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and died in 1833 in York, having held office for forty-two years. I am not aware of anyone else who, without a break, held a seat in the Legislative Council and was a member of the executive for so long. When he was buried in 1833 there was only one paper in what is now Toronto. It was called the Correspondent. That paper stated that his funeral was the largest ever witnessed there, and the most respectable.

Before he passed away his son-in-law, my grandfather, the Hon. Eusèbe Casgrain, had become a member of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada. He remained a member of that House from 1832 to 1848. For a while after 1840 it was very doubtful whether we really had responsible government; it was the Governor who made the principal appointments; and this grandfather of mine was made the first Commissioner of Public Works for Lower Canada. I ask the House to pardon these personal references, as this is the first time in more than a third of a century that I have had occasion to make them. I have a purpose in so doing. As I have said, the Hon. Charles Eusèbe Casgrain died in Montreal in 1848. My own father was elected to Parliament in 1872, and remained till 1891. Then the Hon. T. Chase Casgrain, Attorney-General for the province of Quebec for many years, came to Ottawa in 1896, and was Postmaster General when he died here in 1918. But the Casgrains are still going strong. In the other House the chief Liberal whip is Pierre Casgrain, who has been a member for seventeen years.

On my mother's side Joseph François Perrault was elected in 1796 as member for Huntingdon. In those days that constituency comprised Huntingdon, Chateauguy and La Prairie. Again, strange as it may seem, in those days some members of Parliament were also in the Civil Service, and upon looking up the old books in the Library you will find that in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-something this gentleman was drawing £4,000 in Canadian currency. J. X. Perrault was the member for Richelieu, and to my great surprise, on one occasion, my youngest son, who was then studying law at McGill, was given as a model to learn by heart a speech against Confederation made by this same J. X. Perrault.

All this explains, honourable gentlemen, why I am such an ardent Imperialist. When one's family has served king and country for one hundred and forty-four years almost consecutively, and sometimes simultaneously in Parliament, in the Army and in the Civil Service, especially when one is of my race,