

DIVORCE BILL (ONTARIO)

FIRST READING

Bill A, an Act to provide in the province of Ontario for the dissolution and the annulment of marriage.—Hon. Mr. Willoughby.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, January 31, at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Tuesday, January 31, 1928.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

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. EDGAR SYDNEY LITTLE moved:

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General to offer the thanks of this House for the gracious Speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, namely:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Viscount Willingdon, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Governor General and Commander in Chief of the Dominion of Canada:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

He said: I am fully appreciative of the honour conferred upon me in being chosen as the mover of this Address, and I would that I were riper in years and richer in experience that I might do justice to the demands of the occasion.

The Address which has been brought down may be divided into two phases, the retrospective and the prospective. To me it is particularly important in its rehearsal of the historic features of the past year, for I believe that too much stress cannot be laid upon the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation and upon the part played in that celebration by representatives of the Royal Family and of the British Government.

We are all boastful of the present prosperity and the unparalleled prospects which lie before Canada to-day, and we are perhaps too prone to look upon that prosperity as of our own making and to forget the "main chance" in an atmosphere of commercialism. Where would we be to-day and what would be our prosperity had it not been for the broad vision and the self-sacrificing citizenship of the fathers of Confederation, out of whose labours was born our heritage of to-day? What the fate of that heritage will be in the years to come rests with us to-day, and is dependent on our vision and our capacity to bequeath that vision to the next generation.

It seems particularly fitting that the celebration of our sixtieth birthday should have taken the form of a thanksgiving, a thanksgiving that was a family affair, and that the Queen of Empire and Mother of Parliaments should have graced the family circle in the daughter's house. Truly the daughter has come into her own, and has won recognition in the Council of the League of Nations. It is a matter of congratulation, too, and an honour to this House, that the responsibility of that representation has been ably borne by the honourable leader of the Government in this House. All Canada is justly proud of this further contribution of the Province of Quebec which has given so many men to the public life of the country, men who have rendered and are still rendering a distinct service to the Dominion. I repeat that a distinct honour has come to this House.

The past year, too, has seen a further development of the co-operative idea taught by Confederation in that we have had the conference between the Dominion Government and the Governments of the Provinces of Canada—a conference marked by harmony, and out of which will come greater unity and a still greater spirit of good will.

On the material and prospective side we have every reason to be proud. Canada, twenty-fourth among the nations of the world as to population, is to-day fifth as to trade.

Our agricultural and live stock development is such that we may hope some day in the not far distant future to become the greatest food supply house in the world.

Coming from the county of Middlesex, where I am rather largely interested in farming, and at the same time extensively engaged in the manufacturing and business life of the city of London, I gladly welcome any line of action on the part of the Government which will enable the rural sections to advance, for I fully realize that the commercial in-