

much greater than any differences we may have. These bonds are symbolized and embodied in the Crown, the Crown not as a symbol of a foreign state, but symbolizing, as it does, the sovereignty of our country.

I should like to read a quotation from Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In 1908, speaking along these lines, he said:

As I advance in years I appreciate more the wisdom of that British Constitution under which I was born and brought up, and under which I have grown old, which has given to the various portions of the Empire their separate free governments. It is our proud boast that Canada is the freest country in the world. It is our boast that in this country liberty of all kinds, civil and religious liberty, flourishes to the highest degree. To those who look only on the surface of things this may not be apparent. The inferiority which may be implied in the word "colony" no longer exists. We acknowledge the authority of the British Crown, but no other authority.

I might say that there is, in fact, no empire, but a commonwealth of free and independent states. Sir Robert Borden made clear the status of Canada many years ago.

To my mind, one of the highlights of the last session of Parliament was the debate which took place in the Senate on Bill C-107, "An Act to amend the National Centennial Act," which can be found in Senate *Hansard* of December 18, 1963. The purpose of the bill was not in itself important, in that it dealt merely in semantics, but the underlying reasons behind the bill were of tremendous importance. To honourable senators who were not here at that time I would commend all of the speeches made in that debate, but particularly those of Senator Blois, Senator Grattan O'Leary, Senator Vaillancourt, and my good friend Senator Gouin. These were speeches made in the best traditions of Macdonald, Cartier and Laurier. To many it is regrettable that this debate was not more widely reported by the press. These men spoke of their pride of heritage, of their faith in Canada and its future, of the things that unite us and make us what we are.

Not long ago I was reading Senate *Hansard* of 1926, and I came across the speech of the great Leader of the Senate for many years, Senator Dandurand. Speaking of the difficulties and misunderstandings existing at that time, he had this to say:

I think we are right in never losing our courage, or giving way to pessimism. Canada is a big country, rich in resources, with a hard-working population, as shown by its production in the field, the mines, the forests, the fisheries

and in industry. I believe we have the admiration of the outside world, and yet we pass our time criticising each other and asking ourselves if there will be brighter days for Canada. I would point out that we have succeeded much faster than most countries of the world in re-establishing confidence in Canada, and with the help of Providence, good crops continuing, and the strong will of our people to go forward, our future is assured.

That was in 1926. We realize there will still be difficulties, and apropos of this I read a very apt statement some days ago which said no matter what we try to do, we cannot make an Englishman of a Frenchman, and we cannot make a Frenchman of an Englishman, but we can make good Canadians of both, and there are millions of them in Canada today. It also said that so far as the other ethnic groups are concerned, we cannot change their ethnic group except to make good Canadians of them.

I am satisfied that by all working together, Canada will be a great and prosperous country when we hold our Centennial celebrations in 1967, and if we continue working together Canada will be great and prosperous for many years to come.

(Translation):

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, I am sure that I speak for all of you when I say how happy we were to see Her Majesty's distinguished representative in Canada, the gallant General Vanier, preside once more with such dignity at the opening of Parliament.

We all deplored the absence of his gracious wife, Her Excellency Mrs. Vanier, who is recovering from a recent operation. We wish her a complete and early recovery.

(Text):

At the outset, Mr. Speaker, I should like to welcome all honourable senators to this new session of Parliament, and to say to each of them how much the good wishes and good will shown by them has fortified their untired leader as he assumes his new duties, and I ask you all to continue to help me in my onerous task with your advice and your co-operation.

I too join with the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Brooks) in welcoming the new additions to our assembly.

(Translation):

Senator Denis has been a member of the Canadian Parliament for almost 30 years. He comes from the great city of Montreal. He speaks the language of our first discoverers and pioneers. He comes to us with a vast experience and we will know how to put it to good use.