

Senate during the session. The adoption of such a proposal would give the committee a good deal of work to do, and afterwards would lead to profitable discussion in the House.

I have not been here very long—about fourteen or fifteen years—but according to my observation and experience the situation always has been and always will be the same. Conditions are such that this cannot be altered. As the leader of the Government has said, the House of Commons must necessarily give attention to things which do not concern us at all. During the early part of every session there must be periods when nothing is coming to us from the other House and when, as a consequence, we have nothing to do.

Hon. C. C. BALLANTYNE: Honourable members, there is another important policy that might be extended. During the five sessions that I have had the honour of being a member of this House a great deal of most important legislation has been initiated here. We all know very well that under our Constitution one House has as much right as the other to initiate legislation. Among the measures originating in this House during the past few years have been the Railway Bill, the Shipping Bill—the biggest Bill I ever saw—the Admiralty Bill, the Insurance Bill and the Patent Bill. I do not see what objection any Government that happens to be in power could have to turning over at least a part of its legislation for initiation in this House.

Many of us have sat in both Houses, and several, including myself, have been Ministers of the Crown. Without the slightest intention of criticizing any action of the other House, I think it can be said that when one becomes a member of the Senate and attends meetings of its two most important committees, the Railway Committee and the Banking and Commerce Committee, one is immediately struck with two things. First, there is not a word of reference to politics. This is my fifth session as a senator, and I have never heard a political speech in this House, nor a word of political discussion when bills were being considered by either of the committees I have mentioned. The second thing is that measures are much more quickly and efficiently considered in this House. This is due first of all to the fact that we are summoned to the Senate for life and therefore are not interested in elections; and, secondly, to the fact that honourable members are—I will not say old, for that is not true, especially of our lady members, but, as the honourable senator from Saltecoats (Hon. Mr. Calder) has remarked, rich in experience in business, public affairs and many other walks of life. I know that the honourable leader of the Govern-

ment in this Chamber has done his best to have work for us early in the session, and I hope he will continue his efforts along that line.

I am very glad indeed that the honourable leader has made his statement, and I want to offer him my congratulations. The people of Canada are not properly seized of the duties of this House, nor of the manner in which those duties are performed. It seems to me that the average person thinks the Senate is simply a rubber stamp, that senators have a very pleasant and easy time, and that all the work is done by the other House. We all have listened to a great many joking references to this effect. So I for one am greatly indebted to the honourable leader for saying what he has said to-day. His remarks will, I hope, give the public a better and higher appreciation of the valuable work that this honourable House does.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable members of the Senate, I desire to add one remark. Last year we had a very heavy legislative session. And as my honourable friend opposite (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne) has just said, in the course of the last Parliament there were some highly important measures coming for review before this Chamber. Now, such measures as the Insurance Act, the Shipping Act, the Patent Act and the Railway Act will not have to be overhauled every year; so I hope we may expect the legislative work this session to be lighter than in 1935. There are people who believe that the tendency is for us to place too many laws on our Statute Book. The fact is, of course, that we pass laws when we feel it is opportune or necessary to do so, in the public interest. But there should be, it seems to me, some lean years in legislation.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until Monday, March 23, at 8 p.m.

THE SENATE

Monday, March 23, 1936.

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

CANADIAN WAR-TIME ENLISTMENTS

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Before the Orders of the Day:

Hon. J. P. B. CASGRAIN: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called I wish to draw the attention of the