

navigator became ill after fifteen trips, and the man who took his place was a young fellow from the north of Scotland, who spoke very broad Scotch. Most of the crew consisted of Canadian and English boys. A day or two after this young Scotsman joined them they said to the skipper, "How do you understand what he says?" His reply was, "Well, boys, I am bilingual; my father speaks English, and my mother speaks Scotch". Well, honourable senators, I think the Speaker is bilingual—I really believe he is. I think he can speak English and Scotch, and, of course, incidentally, a little French. As I say, sir, we are delighted to have you with us as our Speaker. We feel sure that in the course of time you will bring credit to Canada and rank highly with your predecessors in this important position.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I want to say a word or two to the mover (Hon. Mr. White) and seconder (Hon. Mr. Méthot) of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I admit that I chose the two gentlemen for the task. I must have had a good sleep the night before, because I was so successful in my choice.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I am highly pleased, and I am sure I speak for all of us, that these honourable gentlemen have been added to our membership in this house. Honourable senators, the mover and seconder of the Address have done credit to this chamber.

If I might say so as an aside, it may be that the former Prime Minister of this country, the Right Honourable Mr. St. Laurent, made some mistakes, but from the standpoint of the party to which I have the honour to belong he made no mistake when he left sixteen vacancies for us to fill, because we are filling them to the best of our ability.

Honourable senators, I feel that I cannot say enough to the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) for the very kind words he used yesterday about myself. I had the honour, and I deemed it a very great honour, to serve as Leader of the Opposition first under the honourable senator from Shelburne (Hon. Mr. Robertson) as Leader of this house, and then under the present Leader of the Opposition. In all my experience in the Legislature in Manitoba, as well as in this chamber for over 22 years, I cannot imagine two men who could give the Opposition a fairer chance, a fairer deal, or a fairer opportunity to carry on reasonable opposition, to make reasonable explanation of the Opposition's stand on the subjects under debate, than they. On this occasion—and this is the first real opportunity I have had

—I want personally to thank these two honourable gentlemen for the very great kindness they showed not only to me, but to all members of the Opposition, and for helping to facilitate the work of this chamber. My hope is that when my period as Leader of the Government in the Senate expires and someone else takes my place, they will be able to say that in a small way I have repaid in some degree the kindness they showed to me, and that I did not let the banner go down, that I was as helpful and courteous to the Leader of the Opposition as these two honourable members were to me during the years I occupied that position.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Honourable senators, may I say one word about the officials and the other staff of this house? I speak not only of those who work inside the chamber, whom we see almost every day, but of all the staff. The Honourable Senators Horner, Aseltine, Marcotte and Quinn—who I am sorry to say is not well enough to be here today—and I have been here so long that we know the employees of this institution, in their various occupations, from the highest to the lowest. They have all done their best to serve the members of the Senate and to make our sojourn here happy and pleasant. We appreciate their loyalty and devotion to the work of this chamber, and I want to thank them one and all, including the page boys.

Honourable senators, one of the problems we face in Canada today is the present position of the farmer. I do not want to enter into what one might call politics, whether Liberal, Conservative, C.C.F. or Social Credit, but I think it is safe to say that despite scientific advancement in other fields the farmer in all parts of Canada is in some respects not nearly as well off as he was, say, 20 years ago.

The production, handling and sale of farmers' products have changed radically in the past 15 or 20 years, and we as members of a legislative body in Canada must recognize that fact. I can speak with considerable authority of the conditions in my own province of Manitoba, and as well with respect to the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, because these three provinces face somewhat the same problems, but the situation is different in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime provinces.

By and large, if one attends today a caucus of the Liberal party, the Conservative, the