

Honourable senators, I am not going to discuss the Speech from the Throne at any length. It seems to me to follow only too well the time-honoured tradition, in that it gathers volume as the years roll on and that what it discloses of Government policy is in inverse ratio to its length.

An Hon. SENATOR: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. HARDY: If this tradition continues to be followed, what the Speech from the Throne will become in the next few years it is difficult to say. I have always felt that the less the Speech from the Throne says the better. Apparently it is meant to hide what is really behind the mind of the Administration—always a wise course. It is the course Sir Oliver Mowat pursued for some thirty years, and I venture to say very few Speeches from the Throne contain more wisdom and give less real information than those which that wonderful old statesman used to prepare for the Ontario Legislature.

I wish to convey my compliments to all our new senators, to His Honour the Speaker on his appointment to his high position, and to the mover and the seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

This is the second time within five years that we have been able to congratulate two new leaders taking office at the same time. I wish them a very happy tenure of leadership for many years to come on their respective sides of the House—as they are to-day.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. HARDY: I was much interested in the very liberal and generous speech of the honourable leader on the other side of the House (Hon. Mr. Haig). Apparently he could not find very much to criticize in the Speech from the Throne. I do not blame him for his failure, nor am I surprised at it, because, although it does not say too much, I think it is very satisfactory to the people at large.

The honourable gentleman dealt at some length with the merits of the single transferable vote. While probably many students of electoral reform will agree with every word he said, it is questionable whether its adoption would not emphasize and perpetuate the groups which he hopes the single transferable vote might abolish. Whether it would or not I do not know. But I have a solution to offer him which would be effective immediately, and, I think, very satisfactory: let the good old Tory party come holus bolus into the great Liberal party.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. HARDY: I think our friends opposite would find an organization ready-made for them, and there would be no difficulty in choosing a leader or, if necessary, arranging for a double-barrelled leadership. I believe it would do the Liberal party good to have with it a somewhat middle-of-the-road party, as the Conservative party has become, since so far as I can see the Liberal party is bound hell-for-leather down the road in competition with the C.C.F.—probably in an endeavour to cut it off. The moderating influence of our friends on the other side might at least halt the rush in that direction by the present Administration. I am not going to criticize the Administration on that account. It may be quite right. Time will show.

While I do not suppose my honourable friends across the aisle will take what I say seriously, there is one thing which I have no doubt will follow before very long. Unless the two old parties, either separately or together, start a real system of education for the electors of this country, we shall find the communistic forces headed by the C.C.F. Party taking a very much stronger position in our public life than they are to-day. That party is composed largely of preachers and pedagogues, and there is never a day that those gentleman are not educating the electorate. They have been brought up to do that, and they have made a wonderful job of it, whether we like it or not. If we cannot get preachers and pedagogues, then we shall have to get publicans and sinners out of our political parties to undertake the work; but the sooner they do it with a well-thought-out system the better it will be for this country. I offer that suggestion to my honourable friends opposite. I can offer it even more strongly to the Liberal party, because being in power it can take a lead in such educational work. Let me add that we shall always be glad to receive our friends on the other side. There will be a light in the window to welcome them, and I do not think they would feel too unhappy in the Liberal fold.

Hon. Mr. EULER: Come across!

On motion of Hon. Mr. Lambert the debate was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON moved:

That when the House adjourns to-day it stand adjourned until Wednesday, October 3, at 3 p.m.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until Wednesday, October 3, at 3 p.m.