

THE SENATE

Thursday, September 29, 1949.

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from yesterday, the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Godbout for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. G. P. Burchill: Honourable senators, I shall not detain the house at any great length, but in view of the impact of recent events in trade and currency on that section of the country which I represent, I should just like to make a few observations.

First of all, I wish to convey to you, Mr. Speaker, my very cordial congratulations on your selection as presiding officer of this chamber. Your selection as Speaker shows that your abilities have been recognized, and I can assure you, sir, that the respect in which we all hold you, and the contribution which you have made since first entering this house, make us all feel happy about your appointment. I wish you a most pleasant and interesting term of office.

I should also like to say how much honourable senators were delighted with the speeches of the mover (Hon. Mr. Godbout) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Petten) of the Address. The mover, by his eloquent speech, made it quite plain that he will be a distinct addition to the debating talent of this house. The seconder, by his most interesting and informative speech on Newfoundland and its people, made an excellent impression in his maiden effort.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Burchill: I should also like to join with previous speakers in welcoming to the Senate the newly-appointed members. As one who comes from the Maritime Provinces, I particularly welcome the honourable senators from our new province of Newfoundland. This session of parliament is an historic one, inasmuch as it is the first to be held since Newfoundland has become part of Canada and representatives from that province have taken their places in both houses of parliament. I can assure the honourable senators from Newfoundland that among their colleagues in this chamber they will find, as I found when I entered as a new senator, a friendly consideration and courtesy on the

part of all. I know that, as they become more familiar with their surroundings, they will enjoy the associations that this chamber will bring to them, and will appreciate its work and functions.

As a representative of New Brunswick, let me say that the three Maritime Provinces were delighted to know that Newfoundland, after more than eighty years, had decided to become one of them—a fourth partner. A friend of mine from Saint John, just after the union had taken place, was asked at a meeting in Montreal by a very prominent citizen of that city why there was so much rejoicing in the Maritime Provinces over the union with Newfoundland. It was pointed out to him that union, at the outset at least, was going to cost Canada a heap of money. My friend replied that the only answer he could give was that misery likes company.

I can say to my colleagues from Newfoundland that the traditions, culture and outlook of the people of their sister provinces by the sea are not unlike those of the people of Newfoundland; nor do their political philosophies differ. Honourable senators will find in the Maritime Provinces and in the other provinces, a community of interest which will ensure close co-operation in support of legislation which will build a Canadian nation worthy of the pioneers who laid the foundation, the statesmen who planned it, and the warriors who fought and died for it, and at the same time will safeguard the interests and the aspirations of the people who live in the provinces by the sea.

Of course, in a country with such diversified interests as we have in Canada, every section has its own problems. Our new senators will discover, as I discovered when I came here, that wheat is grown in some of the western provinces—

Hon. Mr. Horner: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Burchill:—and that in late years, especially, there have been some differences of opinion as to the best marketing possibilities for that wheat.

Hon. Mr. Horner: Where does margarine grow?

Hon. Mr. Burchill: Those of us who come from the East have, of course, to be guided as to western opinion by senators from the West, and during the last few years I have been almost persuaded, particularly by utterances of the honourable leader of the opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) and the honourable gentleman from Blaine Lake (Hon. Mr. Horner), that the farmers of Western Canada thought the government's policy with respect to wheat marketing was very unfair to the farmers and unpopular. But in view of the turn political events in this country since we