

bishop died a number of clergymen wanted to take his place. However, it was decided that henceforth the prayers should be read by the Speaker, who was also then designated as the Chaplain of the Senate.

However, what I wanted particularly to refer to in connection with the 1934 debate was a letter which was read by the honourable senator from Rosetown (Hon. Mr. Aseltine). In that year he was a comparatively new member, but he made, I think, a very valuable contribution to this debate when he read a letter he had received from a Mr. Morrison, formerly a leading member of the Progressive party, and one who represented his district in the House of Commons from 1921 to 1925. The letter, which appears in the Senate *Hansard* for March 8, 1934, reads as follows:

I have been consistently and persistently upholding the institution of the Senate. The C.C.F. and Farmer-Labour party shout "Abolish the Senate!" A shallow, vote-catching cry! Little they realize how often the Senate has saved the day for us, after some ill-thought-out legislation or bill has slipped through the Commons, more for party gain than the country's good. For instance, when the Commons passed a bill to abolish the Crowns-nest Pass Agreement, little knowing the import of it, the Senate threw it out, and Western agriculture was saved at least \$25,000,000 annually. The interest on \$25,000,000 will keep our Senate expenses paid for eternity.

That letter refers to one thing which the Senate of Canada has done for the people.

I would like to remind honourable senators of the fact that since I came to the Senate the Income Tax Act was revised by a committee of the Senate. Establishment of the Income Tax Appeal Board was one result of that committee's work.

Some three years ago a joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons revised the Criminal Code. That certainly was a very important accomplishment. It is not fair to assume that the Senate does not do valuable work. I am sure that anyone who will study the Senate and its work will come to the conclusion that the Senate is doing a very good job indeed.

At different times discussion has taken place in the Senate as to what might be done to improve or increase its work or make it more valuable. Honourable senators will remember that such a discussion took place in 1951, when the honorable senator from Shelburne (Hon. Mr. Robertson) was Leader of the Government in this house. Many suggestions were made, but at that time it was not thought practical to adopt any of them. I am inclined to agree with the honourable senator from De la Durantaye (Hon. Mr. Pouliot) that the Senate can be reformed, if that be deemed necessary, only by the Senate. When the British North America Act was passed it designated the work of the two different houses of Parliament, the

Senate and the Commons. It does not seem reasonable to me that one house can change the other house to any great extent.

In conclusion, I want to say that I think that so far as the new Prime Minister has done very well indeed in regard to his appointments. I am quite sure he can be trusted to do just as well in the future. Furthermore, we all know how jealous of the dignity and position of the Senate in the Parliament is the present Leader of the Government in the Senate (Hon. Mr. Haig). I for one am quite willing to leave the rights of the Senate in his hands. I know of no one who will more zealously uphold the right of the Senate to make its own rules and to reform itself if necessary. I am not suggesting that if the Prime Minister wished to make certain suggestions to the Senate they would not be sympathetically received and discussed. I do object very strenuously, however, to constant criticism of the Senate as if it were an unimportant branch of the Parliament of Canada. It is in my opinion a most important branch, and, except for myself of course, it is composed of a group of very able, thoughtful and representative Canadians. I mean every word of that. Let us hope there will be no more talk about reforming the Senate unless someone has a constructive plan to put forward.

If I may be permitted, honourable senators, I would like to close on a lighter note. The late W. T. R. Preston, who for many years was Trade Commissioner for Canada in Great Britain, when on a trip through the Balkans on government business in 1901 was asked by his hostess at a very aristocratic government dinner in one of the Balkan countries whether he had ever heard of a Canadian remedy known as Doctor Williams' Pink Pills and if he knew the owner or manufacturer of the product. The lady wished to know whether the people who made the pills were reliable or were only American fakers. She also asked Mr. Preston if he had ever taken the pills. Mr. Preston admitted that he had never taken them himself; but he assured her that he knew the maker intimately, that he was a very fine gentleman, and that he was at that time a member of the Canadian Senate. On learning that the maker of the pills was a senator, the lady heaved a sigh of relief and announced to the guests at the dinner table that she thought she could now safely risk taking them.

**Hon. Mr. McDonald:** Honourable senators, as there are several bills on the Order Paper for second reading today, I move the adjournment of the debate.

On motion of Hon. Mr. McDonald, the debate was adjourned.