

the government, and it involved the most abstruse points and a vast amount of most difficult law. No judge whom I ever approached in court had the keenness of knowledge and insight, the breadth of knowledge of law, the patience, the good nature and the kindness of the present chief justice. If, as is now said, his health is as it has been, and, therefore, his keenness undiminished, I can say from real knowledge that there is no jurist in the Dominion of Canada who could replace him to the benefit of that court. I am voting for this bill.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Without wishing at all to delay the passage of the bill through the committee, but rather to satisfy a measure of curiosity which I think is legitimate, I should like to ask the minister a question which arises out of a remark he made with respect to investigation of complaints under the statute against judges who have passed the stage of usefulness. Does the department of its own initiative ever institute investigations, or does it wait until complaints are made by some body such as the law society, the benchers or what-not? I have known of a judge being incapacitated for three years, and yet nothing was done.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: The policy of the department is to not initiate an investigation until some complaint has been made. It is felt that to do otherwise might be considered by the provinces as an undue interference with the administration of justice.

Section agreed to.

On section 2—Coming into force.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: What is the status of the action which has been taken by the chief justice since January 7, 1943?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Since January 7, 1943, the former chief justice of Canada has not been in office, but the statute provides that during a period of six months after retirement a judge may continue to consider cases which he heard while in office and participate in the judgments that are to be delivered. My understanding is that the chief justice has been very busily engaged during the last few days on the preparation of a judgment in connection with a reference which was considered in his court some months ago, and which dealt with the right to tax the legations of certain governments.

Mr. SLAGHT: Because my failure to make any contribution to this debate might be misunderstood, let me endorse what the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Roebuck) has said. I have had the privilege of practising before this court.

[Mr. Roebuck.]

Some three months ago I was engaged in a case before the supreme court which lasted part of two weeks, and I want to say to the house that the keenness of intellect of the chief justice is not in the slightest degree impaired by his advanced age, which has been commented upon. I think I can put it in this way: he is outstanding, a man of rare intellect and ripe experience, with a high sense of honour and integrity, and perhaps above all these qualifications as a judge he is a man of great kindness of heart and of full understanding of human nature.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported.

### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

#### CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Monday, February 1, consideration of the motion of Mr. W. E. Harris (Grey-Bruce) for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Graydon, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Coldwell.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I have been greatly interested in the discussion which has thus far taken place on the speech from the throne. I should like to congratulate the mover (Mr. Harris, Grey-Bruce) and the seconder (Mr. Halle) of the address and to give a little attention to some of the remarks which have been made before I proceed with what I had thought to say myself.

We are living in a time when there is a great deal of random talk about big things to be done, without any constructive proposals as to how those things are going to be done. I find in Canada, for example, politicians going all the way from promising \$1.10 a bushel for wheat without telling us anything about how they are going to get the money to pay for it, to promising a new heaven and a new earth without giving us any idea of how these things are to come about.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): We have heard of a man promising \$25 a month.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Yes, and there was abundant evidence given of how that was to be paid.

As I was going on to say, persons abroad are indulging in the same kind of vague promises, and I think it is an extremely