

I have always been a supporter of the honourable senator opposite (Hon. Mr. Macdonald). I have confidence in him.

My friends left me with no notes of any kind, so I am quite free to express my own sentiments. I appreciate the good co-operation in this house. As honourable senators know, at all times I have been willing to co-operate with them in the work of the Senate. I respect the Senate as a body, and I love and admire each and every one of its members. It is always a pleasure when my health permits me to attend its sittings. Until I die I will always maintain a spirit of confidence in my fellow senators, and be ready to co-operate with them. I know that the Senate will continue to serve the people of Canada faithfully and well, thus fulfilling the purpose for which it was created. Legislation will always be considered thoughtfully in this house, in a spirit not of criticism, but of co-operation, which is as it should be.

Honourable senators, if my honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Haig) were here he would express my sentiments much better than I can. However, it is my privilege to say how much I appreciate my associations in the Senate, and I repeat once more my sincere wish to co-operate in the furtherance of the work of this house.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Austin C. Taylor: Honourable senators, if I am not able to express my sentiments as clearly as I should, I trust honourable senators will appreciate the sincerity with which I speak.

I have been greatly honoured by an appointment to this august body. It was my desire when I came here, and it always will be, to serve the people of Canada as best I can with what ability I may have. I must admit that I received my summons to the Senate with a certain amount of fear and trembling, for while I had some experience in legislative matters I knew very little about this chamber and how its work was conducted. Indeed, I knew very few honourable members of this house.

On the day I arrived at the Parliament Buildings I went to the office of the Clerk of the Senate, and immediately I met Mr. MacNeill I realized that we were old friends. He and I had lived in the same area for a period of about 15 years. I trust he will forgive me for the reference I am about to make to his family. I knew Mr. MacNeill well, but I knew his father, the Reverend Dr. N. A. MacNeill, perhaps better. He was pastor of my church for 15 years and had extended to me the right hand of fellowship there. He was one of the ablest speakers I have ever listened to; and he loved to sing and was a very accomplished singer.

So, as I say, when I came to Ottawa I found in Mr. MacNeill an old friend. I should like to express to him my sincere thanks for making me feel at once that I was among friends. And I am grateful to him and all the officers of this house for the co-operation and assistance they have shown me.

I believe that a friend is the greatest asset a human being can have, and that for every friend I make my life becomes that much richer and fuller. I should like all honourable senators to know that in me they have gained a friend, and I feel I have gained many friends among them. No doubt during my first session as a senator I have made many mistakes. I hope honourable senators will attribute my mistakes to my zeal and desire to serve the Canadian people, and forgive me for them.

May I express appreciation especially to my honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) for his thoughtfulness and friendship. He was the second man I met when I came here, and he also immediately made me feel at home and with friends. On the day that I was sworn in His Honour the Speaker of this house, in a few words and a kindly smile, gave me further assurance that I was among friends. Now I want you all to know that I appreciate more deeply than I can express in words the friendship, the co-operation and the tolerance that all members have shown toward me during this session. May I join with the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Macdonald), the Deputy Leader (Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt), and the Acting Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Marcotte), in expressing to Your Honour and all honourable senators my best wishes and the hope that next session we shall all be back together working in the interest of the finest people on earth, the Canadian people.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Honourable senators, I would suggest that we adjourn now until the call of the bell, at approximately ten minutes to nine.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

The Honourable Patrick Kerwin, the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, having come and being seated at the foot of the Throne, and the House of Commons having been summoned, and being come with their Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy of the Governor General was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the following bills:

An Act for the relief of Joseph Adelard Gerard Leclaire.