

stood at attention as we listened to the wise and welcome words of the King, exhorting us to our duties as Christians and as citizens of the Empire.

Honourable senators, we are witnessing in these hard days practical evidence of the value of our heritage as a part of the British Empire. But far beyond this in value is the sense that membership gives of pride and dignity and purpose, for we know we are a member of the greatest human family, one that has its place—and a high place it is—in working out the destiny of mankind.

The King, with that royal modesty which characterizes His Majesty, finished like a father who on such a day gives his benediction to all his children: he said, "God bless you all!" Then the National Anthem was heard, and every one who had listened to His Majesty's last words stood with head reverently bowed, and offered, in silence, a sincere and fervent prayer to the Almighty: "God save our King and long may he reign over us."

Hon. F. B. BLACK: Honourable senators, before I ask the consent of the House to the adjournment of the debate, I desire to pay my tribute to the ability of the honourable gentleman who has just sat down (Hon. Mr. Casgrain). I know of no way of taking a world cruise more comfortably than by listening to my honourable friend. He has a fund of information which is exceedingly valuable to this House. I purpose to comment on some of his statements, but with the consent of honourable members I should prefer to do so to-morrow.

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

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Thursday, February 1, 1934.

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN.

Hon. F. B. BLACK: Honourable senators, I desire to join with the leaders on both sides of this House, and with others who have taken part in this debate, in congratulating the mover and the seconder of the Address. I also wish to express my welcome to all the senators who have recently been appointed to this Chamber.

With reference to the speech by the honourable member from De Lanaudière (Hon. Mr. Casgrain), as I said yesterday afternoon, it is always a pleasure to listen to his discourses. He takes us over a very wide territory, and if his remarks are not always on the subject under discussion they are at least exceedingly interesting.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: I followed with a good deal of interest the remarks by the honourable leader on the other side (Hon. Mr. Dandurand), particularly with reference to the League of Nations, and for the first time in my life I am going to say a few words on that subject. I have always been sympathetic with the aims of the League. I have listened to a considerable number of addresses made here on this question, but I have never felt that the League as at present constituted was going to do for the world what the enthusiasts of that organization felt it might do. That it has done good I have no doubt. For instance, it has undoubtedly accomplished something with respect to the traffic in injurious drugs and the white slave traffic. The League is a board of consultation in which the representatives of the nations which still adhere to it meet from time to time to exchange views; but it always did seem to me, and I feel this more strongly now than ever, that so long as the League had behind it no concrete force it could do but little in the matter of preventing wars. Since the Great War there have been more than twenty separate and distinct armed conflicts, exclusive of those that have taken place in China, in which country there have been almost an equal number.

There seems to be nothing in the constitution of the League which can keep nations as members when it suits their convenience to drop out. What has happened? Not long after the League was founded a number of South American nations resigned as members, possibly either because they did not want to pay the yearly dues or because they desired to be free to keep up their ordinary run of little fights down there. This latter reason was not a serious thing, because so far back as my recollection goes wars have been the