

Session towards the other side of the House, it is peculiarly fitting that this very pleasant task should have fallen to that honourable gentleman. I hope the leader of the Government will not regard them as personal attacks upon any honourable gentleman on that side of the House, but rather as attacks directed against some of the measures introduced by the Government of the day.

Allow me to say that no one has appreciated more than I have the courtesy and attention which we have met at the hands of the leader of the Government during this Session.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: We could not have expected more from our closest friends; in fact, we can place the honourable gentleman who leads the House so well upon our list of closest friends.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: For the many years we have been together in this House, my association with him has grown as time flew on, and I hope that he may be spared many long years to occupy a seat in this House, particularly to the left of the Speaker.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, I am deeply moved by the words of commendation which have fallen from the lips of the honourable member for Grenville (Hon. Mr. Reid) and my honourable friend who leads the Conservative party in this Chamber (Hon. Sir James Lougheed). If I had set for myself a high standard—hitched my wagon to a star—I would have had no other thought than that of following at a distance in the footsteps of my predecessor who was for more than ten years in the position which I now occupy. He too has had his trying times, and I do not recall having once seen him lose his temper, and he left the seat which I now have the honour to occupy the most popular member of the Senate of Canada.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have on more than one occasion expressed my view of the functions of the Senate. If there be disadvantages at not having previously sat in the Commons, I sometimes feel thankful for having had no such experience because of the strenuous struggles which are carried on there. I have not imbibed the spirit of aggressiveness which is peculiar to the popular House. I came direct from my profession to

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.

this Chamber, and I realise that nine-tenths of the questions that come before us are devoid of any party interest, and can be considered entirely apart from such an interest. I have been here now for over a quarter of a century, feeling day by day that our duty is that of a revising body; and very many times during those twenty-five years I have seen the leaders of both sides co-operating in a fraternal way, without any party bias or party considerations, endeavouring to devise means for improving legislation.

My honourable friend from Grenville has asked what should be done to lighten the burden which falls on the shoulders of the leader of the Government in this Chamber. I have had an idea—I do not know whether we shall ever reach it: it is not that this Chamber should be given Ministers with portfolios, but that it should do without Ministers either with or without portfolios. My idea has been that if this Chamber remained a revising body, without any official representative of the Government, the work coming from the various Departments could be distributed among members of the Chamber according to selections made by the Ministers themselves; and that there should be a Floor Managing Committee to see that the work was carried on; and that progressively—as the Government would not be here the Opposition would not be here either—we would in a higher spirit and on a higher plane examine matters exclusively from the point of view of the general interest, and not be affected, as we sometimes are—and quite naturally so—by our party inclinations. This is my idea of a Canadian Senate; but I have found that the Government thought that it should continue in the old beaten track, and that there should be here an “*officier de liason*” between itself and the Senate. I have performed my duty of bringing to this Chamber direct information somewhat impatiently under my official limitations, and without that freedom of action enjoyed by every other member of the Senate. This may have been at times apparent to my fellow members. As in the case of the Bill just disposed of, I have often forgotten that, by tradition, I had the mandate of defending a measure confided to my care in order to aid you in improving it.

When we come back here next year, if Providence retains me on this side of the Styx, I shall still be, I fear, in this place; for I doubt that the Government will think of going to the people before it has reached