

recognition of any special merit in myself, but rather, that my selection for this honourable role arises from conformity with a long established custom that this function shall be assigned to the newest member of this house. I am, however, deeply sensible of the honour of having been invited to participate in the deliberations of this august assembly, and I hope that I may be able to make some modest contribution to good government in days to come.

If I had had to choose an occasion on which I would especially appreciate the privilege of having my name associated with the traditional resolution which I have just moved, I can think of no year, and no session, that would have given me greater gratification than this session of 1947, for the resolution which I am moving is addressed to a new Governor General, whose achievements had earned the admiration of all Canadians long prior to his appointment by His Majesty the King to his present vice-regal office.

I am indeed gratified that my first duty as a member of this chamber enables me to assure His Excellency that this resolution is no mere empty form of words, but expresses the deep and heartfelt gratitude of the people of Canada, not only that this country has been honoured by his appointment here, but also for the great interest which His Excellency has already shown in the affairs of Canada.

In the short period that has elapsed since his arrival on these shores, His Excellency has visited every province of the dominion, and has entered whole-heartedly into the life of its people. We honour him as a soldier who commanded Canadian forces in some of the most glorious chapters in the history of Canadian arms. And now, as His Majesty's representative in the senior dominion, he has earned the goodwill, and even the affection, of our whole people, through the kindly and obviously sincere interest which he has displayed in every aspect of our Canadian life. I am sure honourable senators would wish me, as the first speaker in this session, to associate the Senate with the cable that His Excellency sent to the Royal Family just before they left for a tour of South Africa. I shall read that cable:

On behalf of the people of Canada I extend to Your Majesties our warm and loyal greetings, wishing you and Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose a safe journey and a happy visit to the Union of South Africa.

I know, honourable senators, it is the wish of us all that the Royal Family will return from South Africa with the same affection

from the people of that country as Their Majesties carried from the people of Canada at the end of the Royal Tour in 1939.

Honourable senators, may I also refer to a very special feeling of pride that I experience in sitting in this chamber under the presidency of one of the most distinguished citizens of the province which I represent.

Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. McKEEN: The Speaker of the Senate has had a public and a private career of service to Canada that is almost unique. He was the pioneer medical practitioner in that rich and beautiful part of Canada known as the Crows Nest Pass. Indeed, I am reliably informed that his exploits and experiences in those rough and crude days were the basis for Ralph Connors' delightful novel *The Doctor*. His shrewd and kindly interest in the welfare of his patients is remembered with deep and abiding affection by the old-timers in the Kootenay.

His record of public service is no less remarkable. He was first elected to the Legislature of British Columbia in 1903, and has been a member of either the federal or the provincial parliament, with only one short interruption, for the last forty-four years. In thanking him for the cordial welcome which he extended to me on my appointment, I should like to add that nothing could have been happier than the spirit in which, during the past few days, all the members of this chamber, regardless of party, have greeted my two newly appointed colleagues and myself.

In reviewing the gracious message in which His Excellency has laid before us the outlines of the business which will require our attention in the present session, I note that questions of an international character occupy a larger place than has been customary in former years. This fact is undoubtedly a reflection of the outstanding position in world affairs which has been earned for Canada by the valour and genius of her fighting youth.

In order that the voice of Canada in the councils of the nations may be worthy of the sacrifices of the war, and of the economic and military strength of our country, it has become more than ever necessary that there shall be an intelligent and an informed public opinion upon all matters of international concern. It is a matter of gratification, therefore, that our government includes for the first time a Secretary of State for External Affairs who is able to give his full time and attention to that important subject.