

## THE SENATE

Friday, October 5, 1945.

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

### PRIVATE BILL

#### FIRST READING

Bill G, an Act to amend an Act respecting Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Company, the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway Company and Great Northern Railway Company.—Hon. Mr. Farris.

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

Hon. JOHN J. KINLEY: Honourable senators, I want first of all to thank you for your warm and generous welcome and for your most gracious greetings to me on my becoming a member of this Chamber. Your welcome to the other new members has been equally cordial. I wish in particular to thank the honourable senator from Inkerman (Hon. Mr. Hugessen) and the honourable senator from Lincoln (Hon. Mr. Bench) for their kindly advice and counsel to us. I can assure them that it is highly regarded and appreciated. The officials of this House and the staff of attendants have been most considerate in looking after us and in getting us settled down to our new duties. This attitude on the part of both members and officials at once created a most agreeable atmosphere of cordiality, and made manifest that the grand old virtues of kindness and courtesy still abide within these walls.

I believe that a new member designates the place whence he comes. I come from Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, but I am reminded that Honourable Senator Duff also comes from Lunenburg and is so designated. In view of this I choose to be known as the Senator from Queen's-Lunenburg—the dual constituency in Nova Scotia that I had the privilege of representing in the Commons. All my experience in public life up to the present has been in active politics, as an elected member, a

capacity in which I have always felt it an honour to serve. Naturally, the service is strenuous, but it has to be that way if one is to survive. Members in all parts of the country must keep in close touch with their own private affairs. They are expected to look after their own business, because that is usually the test of how well they can look after the public's business. Unless a man can look after his own business successfully, he is not very highly regarded when he seeks to become a servant of the public.

The indemnity paid to an elected member of parliament has always been such that, unless he has another source of income, he finds it hard to carry on the duties expected of him and at the same time maintain his family. There is a divided interest. One is obliged to do two things at the same time. I suppose that is the way one gains experience—in the field—for the work one has to do in Parliament. There are many perplexing problems to be decided in the face of conflicting interests and strong competition, both in the field and in Parliament. Public duty calls for the best; to prevail is always a struggle, and as honourable members here know, there are many casualties.

Membership of the Senate imposes a responsibility equal to that imposed by membership of the House of Commons, but it is mellowed to a degree by an independence and security which make this Chamber different. I think this is a place for sincere and reasoned consideration and debate. The lack of urge to score on an opponent is something that is of great advantage. Furthermore, we need not be so much interested in or considerate of things ephemeral. We can take a long range view. With the security that we have here goes the obligation to avoid extremes, to be courteous and tolerant. With courtesy added to tolerance, we should endeavour to find and know the truth. I do not wish to be misunderstood. I am a party man. To me tolerance is not neutrality; I was never known to be neutral. We in Nova Scotia are not built that way. Most senators have been trained in the political life of this country by long service in politics, and politics is the art of government. Others are appointed because of outstanding merit. Together they form an assembly to which mature minds are called in the service of their country.

Democracy is the will of the majority, and we are advised that democracy will function badly unless the rights of the minority are carefully preserved. The preservation of