

Unveiling of Portraits

I am sure all of us who knew Sir Robert Borden will agree that the portrait by Mr. Kenneth Forbes, which we now see before us, is a worthy and striking likeness, and that it reflects great credit upon the artist. I should like, in the name of the government, to thank Mr. Forbes for the portrait he has painted of Sir Robert Borden, and to congratulate him upon it.

Your Excellency, I come to a very difficult part of what I have to say. How am I to express to my fellow members of parliament my appreciation of the honour they have done me in wishing to have the portrait of myself, by my friend Frank Salisbury, given a place on the walls of parliament? How am I to thank them for wishing to have it given an association with the portrait of Sir Robert Borden, in events which are outstanding in history? How am I to thank them for having selected today—the day on which I have completed twenty years of office—as the day for the unveiling of the two portraits? And how am I to thank His Honour the Speaker of the Commons for what he has just said?

In one thing I am fortunate indeed. It is that the artist, Mr. Salisbury, has found it possible to be with us today. Mr. Salisbury will be able to assure you that it was to his persuasion rather than to any expressed desire on my part that the portrait owes its existence. Perhaps nothing could better illustrate Mr. Salisbury's skill as an artist than what he has been able to make of me! I am indeed grateful to him for including me among the number of those to whom his brush has of itself helped to bring distinction.

After the many years I have been in parliament and in office, I cannot tell you what it means to me to find myself surrounded, as I am at this moment, by those with whom I have been most closely associated in the public life of Canada. It is an expression of friendship and good will on the part of political friends and opponents alike, much too moving to be acknowledged in words. I cannot begin to express what this occasion means to me today, or what it will mean to me for the remainder of my days. I can only thank you, one and all, and this I do with all my heart.

All too soon associations of the present melt into memories of the past. I am happy to think that those who have shared today's associations may not find the memory of them lacking in warmth or colour with the passing of the years. I even venture to hope

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

that, to those who seek a noble calling, the memory of this occasion will serve to lend a glow to public life and to reveal the richness of the rewards of public service.

(*The proceedings were concluded by the singing of "O Canada".*)

Thursday, June 12, 1947

The house met at three o'clock.

REPORTS AND PAPERS

Copy of order in council P.C. 2180, relating to the movement of displaced persons from Europe to Canada.—Mr. Howe.

PRIVILEGE

MR. MAYHEW—STATEMENT AS TO TABLING OF REPORT UNDER MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS ACT

Mr. R. W. MAYHEW (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance): Yesterday afternoon during the discussion of Bill No. 256 the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) made the statement that the annual return under the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act had not been tabled. His words are as follows, at page 4020 of *Hansard*.

The requirements of that section have apparently been honoured more in the breach than in the observance. It is like a great many similar sections that we encounter in statutes passed by this parliament requiring annual reports—they are simply ignored by the government. It is high time the government made a serious attempt to heed and obey the terms of this and other statutes providing for annual reports to parliament on operations under acts.

I replied, at page 4024:

The hon. member also said that the annual report had not been tabled. The act provides that the report shall be tabled, and I think my recollection goes back to the time this year when I tabled that report. This is a copy of what I tabled at that time—

I referred to the document I was holding in my hand, from which I was reading. The hon. member for Eglinton then said:

I have done just what the parliamentary assistant proposes, and I think if he will look back in the records of the house he will not find any report tabled.

I want to refer the hon. gentleman to *Votes and Proceedings* No. 34 of March 18 this year. On that day I tabled order in council P.C. 845, and also the ninth annual report of the operations of the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act, 1938, for the year ending December 31, 1946.