

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

REPORT CONCURRED IN

Hon. Mr. TANNER presented the report of the Committee of Selection, and moved concurrence therein.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Acting Chairman of the Striking Committee perhaps has said—if not, I say it for him—that there are very few changes made in the various committees from session to session, as we generally leave on the committees the members who already have been serving. This year we had only two senators to replace, Senator Smeaton White, and Senator McDonald, of British Columbia, who was named as a member of a couple of committees.

I may say for the information of honourable members that when we go through the attendance lists of the various committees we sometimes find that some senators have not been active committee members or have not been attending committee sittings. If this is due to illness we hesitate to substitute other names. But I should like to urge members of the Senate who value their membership on committees to show their interest by attending committee meetings, for next year those who are indifferent to the work of the committees may be replaced by senators who desire to serve.

The motion was agreed to.

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. Hugessen for an Address in reply thereto.

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Honourable members, I have read the Speech from the Throne, and it contains many subjects of great importance to the people of Canada, but I do not intend to discuss them all.

I want to congratulate the honourable mover of the motion (Hon. Mr. Hugessen). Methought I heard the accents of Oxford and of Cambridge, and maybe of McGill. I desire also to congratulate the honourable seconder of the motion (Hon. Mr. Parent). To be quite candid, I was not able to follow him as closely while he was speaking as when this morning I read his speech in Hansard. Methought those two honourable gentlemen well represent the historic province of Quebec. I listened, naturally with pleasure, to the address of the right honourable leader of the Opposition (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen).

I listened also with pleasure to the answer of the honourable leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Dandurand). I listened too with pleasure to the address of the first lieutenant of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne). It seems to me that the four honourable senators from Quebec who have so far taken part in the debate represent every phase of history and every shade of opinion in the province. I think that the right honourable leader of the Opposition best represents public opinion in the province of Ontario. Although for a short time he sojourned in the province of Manitoba and drank the waters of the Red river, in thought and action and idea he really is at home in the province of Ontario.

If this afternoon it appears I am from the wild and woolly West I want effete Easterners, especially honourable members from the Central Provinces, to remember the dictum laid down by the right honourable leader of the Opposition in an address which recently he delivered in Montreal. The honourable mover of the motion said he read the speech in the Montreal Gazette. I may tell him that it appeared also in last week's issue of the Toronto Financial Post. The right honourable gentleman therein stated that one of the principal duties of the Senate was to protect minority rights. In this connection I would point out that our representation is drawn from four great divisions, the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ontario and the Western Provinces, each division being represented by twenty-four members. We in the West have not a sufficient number of members in the other Chamber to focus attention on our problems. Therefore I shall not take up much time with a discussion of the general problems of Canada, but shall confine myself to the problems peculiar to the three Prairie Provinces. The problems of British Columbia are very much different from those of the prairies, being in the main similar to those of the Maritime Provinces. But we of the prairies have our own peculiar problems.

Before, however, I touch on the main theme of the few remarks which I shall offer for the consideration of honourable gentlemen, I want to say that the question of national defence is agitating the people of Western Canada just as it is the people of the other sections of the Dominion. The thinking people of the Western Provinces are disturbed in this respect, not generally for the same reasons as, say, Ontario and Quebec, but mainly on the ground of trade. Our whole wheat production must be sold to the world, and we realize, as I think our fellow Canadians do, that our trade routes must be protected if we are to continue to live as a