

woman to this Chamber is a new departure. Individually I have grave doubts that such a contingency was foreseen by the Fathers of Confederation. I read the report of our Supreme Court on the subject—in fact, I attended the court during the argument, for it was a very interesting subject—and the judges were unanimous in their opinion, and though they failed to convince the Privy Council, they convinced me. It has been wittily said of the Privy Council that it is the court of the last guess, and while I do not say that by way of reflection, the surprise that some of its judgments have caused would seem to bear that out. Take for instance its decision in the Newfoundland-Labrador case. Many people thought our own Supreme Court was correct in its judgment when it decided that under the Act a woman was not a person. I would not dare to call a woman a person anyway. The question was rather whether she was an eligible person. The matter has now been settled, and I think the people of Canada as a whole are very well satisfied that it has been settled as it has been. There are in this House and the other House many spheres of activity in which a woman's knowledge and experience enable her to make valuable contributions. It is rather remarkable that a daughter of Quebec, a province that denies its women the right to vote in provincial affairs, should be the first woman to have the honour of a seat in this House.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: Pretty hard on Quebec.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: We have had, as usual, some additions to the membership of this House, among them being the honourable member who until recently was Minister of Colonization and Immigration (Hon. Mr. Forke). We are not unfamiliar with the distinguished services that gentleman has rendered, and we congratulate him upon his promotion to this House. He is followed in the Cabinet, and very properly so, by another westerner, Mr. Crerar. Mr. Crerar, as you know, was a member of the Union Government, and before that was a very aggressive Progressive. I presume that now he is a straight Liberal, without any mental reservations.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: Without any presumption.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: If honourable gentlemen had heard Mr. Crerar, as I have heard him, damning the Conservatives up hill and down dale, with the Liberals a good second, they might be inclined to agree that as a man gets older there comes a certain reform in his character.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY:

Hon. Mr. FORKE: Perhaps the honourable gentleman will allow me to inform the House that Mr. Crerar was nominated by a Liberal Progressive convention.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: But not a Progressive Liberal convention. It is a horse of a very different colour. Gentlemen may appear under a twofold light and call themselves Co-operatives, as they did in the Province of Saskatchewan. However, I think Mr. Crerar has found his real home; but nobody ever thought the Ethiopian could change his skin any more than the leopard could change his spots.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: He is still a leopard.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: He is still the same animal.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: But he still has a whole skin.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I do not wish to say an unkind word about him. Our relations are friendly, and I wish the Government good luck with the new addition to its membership.

A great deal is said in the Speech from the Throne about the prosperity of the country. It is true that for two or three years there was perhaps a certain abnormal prosperity, the causes of which I am not going to attempt to analyze to-day. Undoubtedly the enormous expenditure on the development of our mineral resources was one of the most striking causes; or perhaps I should say the expenditure upon the search for minerals all over Canada. There was a very marked development also in certain other lines, particularly in the pulp industry. That has been so marked that it has been necessary to combine and unify some companies that were perhaps a little over-extended, and to curtail production. On the whole there has been a great deal of industrial expansion during the past three or four years. Particular emphasis is laid upon building construction. This line of endeavour certainly has been very active throughout Canada. Unfortunately, I regret to state, building construction in Western Canada has come to an absolute standstill. I have been in the West for thirty years, and in my experience we have never had as bad times as we are experiencing at present. The city of Winnipeg has been suffering from a depression. This is due to some extent, and perhaps mainly, to the agricultural problem. In the Province of Saskatchewan we had the worst crop failure in thirty years, and it extended over a very wide area. This could not but be