

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Honourable senators, the other day I had the pleasure of welcoming our new Speaker (Hon. Mr. Robertson) and congratulating him on his appointment to his high office. Since that time I have personally congratulated the new leader of the government in this chamber (Hon. Mr. Macdonald), but as I have not congratulated him publicly I wish to do so right now. Even before his entry into public life he had a distinguished career, being a barrister and solicitor of note in the Brantford area. Soon after his election to the House of Commons he took a very prominent part in the work of that chamber, and some four years ago became its Speaker. I am told, and I do think it is generally conceded, that he was one of the most popular Speakers if not the most popular, that that house has had in many a day.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: So I am sure that, with that background, he will prove to be a very capable and congenial leader of the government in the Senate.

Honourable senators, before going further I should like to congratulate the mover (Hon. Mrs. Jodoin) and the seconder (Hon. Mrs. Fergusson) of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. When I went to school I studied French for some six years, but I find that the mover of the Address speaks much better English than I do French. She made a splendid speech here yesterday, and I am sure that she will prove a prominent and useful member of this chamber.

The seconder also made an unusually fine speech. I was very much interested in all that she said about the wonderful province of New Brunswick, including her references to that great enemy of the forests, the spruce bud-worm. Her remarks caused me to wonder just what kind of speech I made when I first came to the Senate, some twenty years ago; so I looked up *Hansard* and, lo and behold, the record showed that I spent all my time talking about the province of Saskatchewan, with some special references to that marvelous place called Rosetown, surrounded by a million acres of arable land, all under cultivation—the heart of the wheat belt. So I can understand the seconder's enthusiasm in dealing with matters that concern her own province. When she spoke of the New Brunswick spruce bud-worm, I could not help thinking of the grasshoppers, the cut-worms, the rusty beetles and the mites of Saskatchewan. While our wheat crop is growing, we have to contend with cut-worms, wire-worms and grasshoppers, and after we

get the wheat into the bins and ready for market, we then are troubled by rusty beetles, mites and other pests.

Hon. Mr. Wood: And the C.C.F.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: The West, like New Brunswick, has plenty of difficulties.

While on this point of members speaking about their own provinces, I would suggest that all members of this house should visit provinces other than their own and become acquainted with the problems confronting different parts of the country.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I have been a little delinquent myself; I have not yet visited Newfoundland, nor the famous province known as Prince Edward Island, but I hope to do so.

Hon. Mr. Grant: You are a young man yet.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I hope to visit those provinces in the near future.

May I here express a welcome to all the new members who have been appointed to this chamber? I think they will make a great contribution in the years that lie ahead. I was a little disappointed that the Prime Minister, in his selection of new senators, did not appoint a lawyer from the far west or the far east, with the idea that he would take over the chairmanship of the Standing Committee on Divorce. In this chamber I have many times suggested such an appointment, and a few days ago I mentioned it to the Prime Minister. He is taking it into consideration, and maybe he will appoint someone who will take over the position. In the meantime, we have secured the valuable services of the honourable senator from Toronto Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck).

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: I shall thus be relieved of a great deal of work and responsibility. I am quite sure that his wide experience as a lawyer, and his previous experience as deputy-chairman of the committee, will prove invaluable to him, and that he will function to the satisfaction of all of the members of this chamber.

While I am dealing with the question of divorce, perhaps I may be pardoned if I make a statement about my visit to England last summer. I am not going to speak on divorce today, although it is a very interesting subject, about which I have made many speeches in the past. I only wish to say now that during Coronation week the courts over there were not sitting, but following the Coronation ceremonies I visited the High Court of Justice on several occasions, and