

THE SENATE

Wednesday, March 5, 1952

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

Prayers and routine proceedings.

CANADA DAIRY PRODUCTS BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Euler presented Bill B, an Act to amend The Canada Dairy Products Act.

The bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the Speaker: When shall the bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Euler: At the next sitting.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY FINANCING

RETURN TO ORDER

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Honourable senators, I now lay on the table a return to an Order of the Senate of November 13, 1951, answering questions of the honourable senator from Calgary (Hon. Mr. Ross).

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the Sixth Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of Canada.

Hon. J. P. Howden moved:

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Vincent Massey, Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it Please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada, in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both houses of parliament.

He said: Honourable senators, being an old member of the Senate I know full well that it is against the rules for honourable senators to read speeches. I toyed briefly with the idea of discarding the text of my remarks, but that was only a pipe-dream, for I realized full well that I could not get on without the text—and more, that I would have to follow it pretty closely if I were to make my remarks sensible. So if it appears at times that I am speaking to the wall or reading to myself, you will know the reason why, and I hope you will make allowances.

I have not the remotest idea what circumstance has placed me before you today to

move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, but in the light of recent sad and sombre events one might well have wished for a happier task. Indeed, we at the capital, and more especially in this chamber, have of late had occasion for much regret. It commenced with the official farewell to Viscount Alexander and his gracious Lady. His Excellency's fame preceded him to Canada, and their coming was anticipated with much pleasure. Nor were Canadians disappointed, for the popularity of Lord Alexander and his family grew from the first day on. Now to our regret they were going away; many wished they might have stayed longer or might come amongst us again at a future time. We bade them good-bye officially on the night of February 5, and the next morning early we were stunned with the awful news of the death of our King.

This was no cause for mild regret. I believe that profound sorrow seized the whole British people, and that thousands and hundreds of thousands of people in all the Commonwealth mourned deeply and still do. A sincere conscientious, thoughtful person, gracious, kindly, humble and grand, the late King would, I believe, have been well content to pass on the Crown to another had he not felt it his sacred duty to take it up. Nor was it easy for him at that; it presented many problems—problems with which, perhaps, like Jacob of old, he often wrestled far into the night until, like Jacob, he too prevailed. He overcame, and to him that overcometh a crown of life shall be. I believe that no finer man than King George VI ever sat on the Throne of Great Britain. Our deep, kindly sympathy goes to his sorrowing wife, and to his mother and daughters, for surely no one in like circumstances was ever better loved or more deeply mourned than he.

Within the last few days two of our most warmly regarded senators have passed on. I believe the official eulogy has been delayed necessarily till a later date, but I feel that these remarks would be sadly lacking if no expression of appreciation were made at this time of the lives of these splendid men. Both were old men, both famous in their fields of endeavour.

Senator Thomas Bourque, from New Brunswick, appointed in 1917, was the senior member of the Senate. A physician and surgeon by profession, he held as well an M. A. degree, and had maintained a private semi-rural practice for nearly sixty years—no small task, I am sure. Our sympathy is with the bereaved family in the loss of this fine old gentleman.

Sir Allen Aylesworth was almost a centenarian, having been born in 1854. He