

Few associations in this country bring together, in their national conferences, such outstanding representation from the many communities - social, cultural, business and professional, and academic - of which the mosaic of our nationhood is constructed, and the honour of not only speaking for the Association as a whole, but also of speaking to it, is one for which I am deeply grateful. In this audience, there is a cross section, but not a cross-grained section, a microcosm, of the Canadian scene.

Since last I had occasion to speak for and to the Association two years ago in London, many changes have impressed themselves on our lives, and although the Association's presidential address then as now was and is being uttered by one and the same person, his designation has undergone a metamorphosis. In emerging from the chrysalis of academic politics to the flights of political affairs, the "Doctor" - and in my new capacity, I always hasten to add that it was honorary anyway - has become "Mister". Such distinguishing marks as I may have had among the ubiquitous and anonymous tribe of Smiths have thus disappeared. Sic transit gloria academica.

The political world, however, is not to be outdone by the academic in the cabal of prefixes and suffixes it permits its practitioners to add to their names, but in this connection I hasten to add that the "P.C." after my name which I acquired in exchange for the "Doctor" in front, does not before this audience stand for Progressive Conservative.

When last Autumn, I took up my present responsibilities, I was prepared - but not without reluctance - to retire from my present position in the Association and I so informed our National Director who after presenting my letter to a meeting of the National Executive, wrote to me as follows:-

"They wondered if you could possibly reconsider this and remain as President. (This could not too seriously embarrass those of us who are not Conservatives because they knew you were appointed President earlier!)"

This excerpt had, however, been corrected in ink by the hand of our Director. What was actually typed on the page read this way:

"This would not too seriously impress those of us who are not Conservatives...."