

alone within the borders of this his native country, but throughout all the nations of the earth.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Honourable senators, on my own behalf—and I am sure on behalf of all honourable members on this side—I desire to extend to the Prime Minister our very best wishes and congratulations upon the attainment of his seventy-first birthday, and to express the sincere hope that he may long be spared to enjoy good health and to exert his great powers in the cause of peace and good will among nations, a cause to which he has devoted his life and made some notable contributions.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. C. C. BALLANTYNE: Honourable senators, I certainly deem it both an honour and a privilege to be afforded this opportunity of expressing for myself and for all those whom I represent on this side of the House our warmest congratulations to the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, on his seventy-first birthday. May we share the hope, so fittingly expressed by the honourable leader of the Government, that for many years to come the right honourable gentleman will be spared, to continue as Prime Minister while his party remains in power.

I quite agree with my honourable friend opposite that the Prime Minister's career has been both long and distinguished. This is not an easy country to govern. He has been Prime Minister longer than any of his predecessors and during his regime our national development has been remarkable. Not only is he very highly esteemed in Canada; he is well known in international affairs and regarded as a world leader.

A cultured gentleman, the Prime Minister has always been fair in dealing with political questions that come before Parliament, and his well-deserved reputation as an authority on domestic and world-wide questions will always assure him a prominent place in the history of the Dominion.

I sincerely trust that, since his health continues to be excellent, he will not think of retiring into private life, but will attend the Peace Conference, where his knowledge of international affairs and his mature judgment will be recognized and appreciated.

Hon. A. C. HARDY: Honourable senators, the senator from Edmonton (Hon. Mr. Harmer) is the only member on this side of the House who outranks me in seniority. I believe I have known Mr. King fairly intimately

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON.

for a longer period than anyone else in this House. I go back to the time, no less than fifty-four years ago—and in the circumstances I should rather like to hide my own age—when at the age of seventeen he took up the work that he has continued down through all these decades. During his college career in Toronto he devoted himself largely to slum research, a study which he followed up in Chicago, ultimately becoming one of the best known industrial research workers on the North American continent. I mention this side of Mr. King's career to make known that his public life did not begin with his entry into Parliament.

Hon. CAIRINE R. WILSON: I too am rapidly approaching seniority in the Senate—

Hon. Mr. HARDY: Never! Never!

Hon. Mrs. WILSON: —and I should like to endorse what has been said by the leaders on both sides of the House, and by the honourable senator from Leeds (Hon. Mr. Hardy). We cannot but marvel that one man has been able to carry such a load over so many years. I join in the hope that his physical vigour will remain unimpaired so that he may attend the Peace Conference, whose decisions will be of vital importance to the world.

INFANT MORTALITY

DISCUSSION

The Senate resumed from Wednesday, December 12, discussion of the following notice of Hon. Mr. Dupuis:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to the desirability of establishing a national organization in co-operation with all the provincial governments, whose functions would be to help mothers, to develop infant health and to reduce to its minimum infantile mortality.

Hon. CAIRINE R. WILSON: Honourable senators, on behalf of the women of Canada I should like to express to the honourable senator from Rigaud (Hon. Mr. Dupuis) my appreciation of his interest in this vital matter. When he spoke on the work of the Mothercraft Society I had hoped that some of my male colleagues would rise in his support, because we are accustomed to hearing many eulogies of the glories of motherhood.

I find very little is actually done to assist the young wife and mother to learn what should be her principal role in life. I heard the honourable gentleman from Rigaud extol the courage of the pioneer spirit of the Fathers of the Church, who carried the Cross to the Indians, but I was a little disappointed that he did not speak of Marie Hébert, who in her own person epitomized all the virtues of our