

Senate regarding Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Grey, and Lady Sybil and Lady Evelyn.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex)—As a private member of the Senate, I may be permitted to say a word to accentuate what has been said so well by the right hon. leader of the House, the hon. leader of the opposition and the hon. member from Delormier. I have had the honour, although a comparatively young man, to have been personally acquainted with all the Governors General of Canada, with the exception of Lord Lisgar. I remember when I first entered parliament we had the honour, shall I call it the pleasure, of the presence of the Earl of Dufferin, who had then entered practically upon the beginning of his diplomatic career, and every successor of his down to the present Governor General seemed to be equally anxious, not only to adorn the position which they filled, but to be of service to the country they served. I often felt in conversation with these distinguished representatives of His Majesty that to a young country like Canada, undeveloped, the attitude of a Governor General was most important in many respects. In the first place, to a certain extent—for we have not all of us visited the old land and associated with statesmen who have made history for England and guided our destinies—many of us have formed opinions of British institutions and British statesmen, and more particularly of the aristocracy of England from the character of the men sent to represent the Crown in this country. As a Canadian, I think it is most important that we should have a due appreciation of the various elements that constitute the British nation. It is not enough that we should know a nation historically or that we should be acquainted with the development of her constitutional law; we should also have an idea of the part the aristocracy of Great Britain has played in the maintenance of its status as a nation and fulfilling the high duties which, from their education and training, they are best qualified to fill. Judging, by that alone, those who have been sent in a representative capacity to this country, there can

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

be but one opinion among the people of Canada, that there are statesmen still in England, that the old blood of the men of days gone by who stood by British institutions and devoted the very best social, and personal influences to the development of the British nation, still survives in the presence of those whom we have the honour of seeing from time to time. The personal equation, and it is a most important one in the case of every Governor General during my experience, has been most gratifying to me as a Canadian, and has been so I think to every Canadian who came in contact with them, and to us as a young people that personal equation is a most important one because it is most difficult, I find in my own case personally, sometimes for us to place ourselves in our relation to the Governor General in a position which will enable us to see him at his best and which will enable him to see us at our best. Earl Grey has lent himself in those kindly, sociable affable relations to the people of Canada which have enabled us fully to appreciate him as a man and to regard him not only with respect but with affection as a Governor General. I emphasize that feature of his character, although in that respect he has only walked to a large extent in the footsteps of his predecessors, and he has shown that with a dignity of honour and respect which belongs to his position he has the same human qualities as other men and can take you by the hand with the same cordiality and kindness as one to the manner born. Another feature which happily has characterized all our Governors General, for I shall make no immediate distinction, is the anxiety and earnestness and zeal with which each and all of them endeavour to make themselves acquainted with the people they serve, or, shall I say with the people they govern, although I prefer the word 'serve,' for any man who is not willing to serve is incapable of governing well. Earl Grey, early in his history, even before he was Governor General, tried to make the acquaintance of the people of Canada, and tried to know the characteristics of the people and tried to forestall the future by making himself acquainted