

hobbled and restricted in his plans by men who looked back to the past and had little vision of the future. It may be that in his frustration he made that rather remarkable statement.

We hear a good deal too about the lessons to be taken from history. After all, history is a record of wars and disasters, of the efforts of people to get back to something like normal in the intervening periods of peace. History also tells us of forceful men who led others and who controlled the destinies of nations. Cromwell, though he did some good, did not care much about precedents, and Napoleon certainly did not regard precedents seriously; yet he gave to the world the Napoleonic Code, which today is considered one of the finest codes of law in the world. The conditions of their time gave these men their opportunities.

I think that Canadians are well qualified to look after their own judicial affairs. I do not think that anybody will deny that the Privy Council has done a great work; its term of service is a period in our history. But England has changed, and today free enterprise in that country is being restricted. There are both quick and wonderful changes taking place in the world, and for Canada the time has come to make changes—need we say more—and the vote will tell the tale.

In looking forward may I leave with you the words of the apostle Paul, when he said:

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize. . . .

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson: Honourable senators, I had expected that this debate would be concluded this evening; but I happen to know that the honourable senator from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hayden), who has given a good deal of time and consideration to this question, intended to speak last week but was prevented from doing so by circumstances beyond his control. I have not heard whether his intention has since changed, but as he has devoted so much thought to the subject I should be sorry to have the debate closed this evening in his absence. I shall therefore ask honourable senators, after I have said a few words on the matter, to agree that the debate be adjourned to afford the honourable senator from Toronto an opportunity to speak, if he wishes to do so.

I do not need to say that I am in favour of this bill and hope that it will pass this house. I have listened to the arguments for further delay, but it seems to me that delay would serve no useful purpose. The bill comes to us as the expressed will of the other branch of parliament. It can hardly be said that it falls within the category of "hasty legisla-

tion", since, as the honourable senator from Inkerman (Hon. Mr. Hugessen) has pointed out, similar action, or what at the time was thought to be similar action, was taken by this house seventy-four years ago.

In case it should be argued that public opinion had changed in the meantime, and that parliament has no mandate for the bill, I need only refer to the cogent arguments of the honourable senator from Vancouver (Hon. Mr. Farris). It seems to me that our duty is clear, and I hope and believe that this house will act accordingly.

I confess to feelings of great pride in the fact that I am for the moment government leader of a house whose members, in advancing their opinions both for and against this legislation, have set so high a standard of parliamentary debate. I have heard many complimentary remarks about it from competent observers both within and outside this chamber.

Although there have been differences of opinion as to the decisions made by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council with respect to Canada, there has been general agreement, I believe, that the services rendered by that court to Canada have been very great. To this viewpoint I heartily subscribe; and my appreciation is in nowise lessened by the knowledge that over the whole period of time in which the Judicial Committee has served this country no charges for this service has fallen upon the Government of Canada.

It is with the greatest pleasure, therefore, that I inform honourable senators that I have gladly referred to the government for consideration the suggestion of the honourable senator from Inkerman, that at this time, when in all likelihood that long connection of the Privy Council with Canada will be severed, some appropriate recognition of their great services should be made by the proper authority.

I should not like to allow this occasion to pass without saying a word of appreciation of the work of the courts of justice in our own country, presided over by judges who for so many years have performed with impartiality and dignity the high duties entrusted to them. The character and intellectual capacity of the bench are of the highest public importance. Canada has produced some great judges; and competent people, Canadians and others, have often praised the high standards of our courts in the administration of justice.

I am heartily in agreement with the conclusions drawn by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice, that our Supreme Court, receiving its inspiration from the Privy Council, will be, in the words of the honourable senator from Vancouver, "just as great,