

On several occasions I have ventured to speak on the subject of divorce. Under the chairmanship of the honourable senator from Rosetown (Hon. Mr. Asetline) and later under the chairmanship of the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck), I and other members of the committee have adjudicated—if that is the proper word—upon more than one thousand divorce cases. Each one of those cases was a domestic tragedy.

We see some of the shady side of life in the divorce court. People come there who seem to be lacking in character, in background, in a healthy attitude, and who are not really determined to make a success of marriage. An eminent judge in the United States once made the statement that about 90 per cent of those persons involved in divorce cases seldom attended church. However, from the evidence that is presented we hear much of selfishness, much of self indulgence, particularly in alcoholic liquor, much of cruelty, and even, at times, of an absolute disregard of all moral principles.

We in the Senate do not break up the homes of the people of this country. Those homes are hopelessly broken up before the parties ever come to us. If there is any doubt at all about a case, we do not recommend it. We try to apply the law to all cases, and I must say that I have come to the conclusion that the law does not always work in favour of those who deserve its benefits. Many people in this country get divorced all too easily, and, on the other hand, others are doomed to live in misery, sorrow and perhaps suffering because they can obtain no relief under the law.

Honourable senators, to go to another subject, I might say that there was a time in this country when almost every family, and almost every child, could be labelled either a Liberal or a Conservative. Those were the days of the two-party system. I still think that if any group of people wish to have their ideas accepted, and wish to have their thoughts and opinions transferred into legislation, their aspirations are more likely to be realized if they work within one of the two parties than if they support a splinter party.

Times have changed, however. There was a day when most people got their news from the weekly newspaper, and that newspaper generally coloured its news and its views to suit the party that the editor believed in. We have today many excellent newspapers and publications, and I think it is to the credit of the editors and the publishers of those papers that all the news is given. They will feature some particular article that appeals to them as being sound, regardless of what

political party it helps or hurts. In my opinion, much credit is due to the newspapers of this country.

In many homes there are television sets. Nearly everybody has a radio. Radio sets are to be found in the most remote country places, and much information is obtained through these media.

In fact, people are pretty well informed at the present time. As an illustration of this I point out that a few years ago the people of this country returned a government with a larger majority than any government had had since Confederation, and then only four years later they left that government on the verge of defeat. This indicates, I think, first, that there are many independently-minded people in this country and, secondly, that the people expect a high standard of accomplishment from those who are placed in positions of public trust.

There are, of course, baffling problems. There are difficult questions, both domestic and foreign. Everybody realizes that we are not sailing along in the sunshine of prosperity by any means, and I believe that the party that will dedicate itself to solving these problems, the party that will promote legislation designed to strengthen the economy and not just to get votes, and the party that will show administrative ability, will merit the gratitude and confidence of the Canadian people and will govern this great nation for many years to come.

I have indicated that I think the recognized need at the present time is to so shape and direct our economy that peace and contentment and employment will abide with the Canadian people of this generation, and of all generations to come.

I just wish to indicate two things that I feel will contribute something to the general welfare, and that will probably increase the gross national product. The first is education. Most people who are out of work at the present time are men and women who have not had the advantage of an education. The more schooling a person has, the easier it is for that person to obtain suitable employment and hold it and advance in it. Education gives prestige and confidence to any individual and makes it easier for him to learn new things and to accomplish something really worth while.

A great blessing would be conferred if, by artificial means, water could be placed upon some of the dry parched-out land where, much to the disappointment and despair of the farmers, the crops fail year after year. Water placed on the land by gravity, by a sprinkler system, or by a spraying system, would bring most welcome results.