

*Right Hon. R. B. Bennett*

as great as we should like to have it; and he would be a bold man who would say that there are not in operation forces that we fain would destroy, that do not conduce to that unity of thought, of purpose and of action which is essential to the development of a national outlook in this dominion.

I have tried to keep that thought in mind. I think perhaps I had better say to my colleagues in the house that this is not the time to deliver a valedictory; and while I have expressed myself as clearly as I can as to what is my own position, I shall never forget your kindness at times or your cruelty at others, and I again thank the Prime Minister.

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, as the oldest member of this house in point of service, and representing more particularly a certain section and element of the population of Canada, I wish to pay a tribute to my right hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett). We have fought many battles; we have differed, at times violently; but I must say that my association with the right hon. gentleman has always been of the finest kind. I am pleased to have been associated with him, and personally, as well as in his capacity in the public life of the country, I am pleased to render him my warmest tribute and homage. At the first session after he was selected as the leader of his party, I said he was a fine type of Canadian manhood, and I wish to repeat those words on this, his last day as leader of his party.

Mr. BENNETT: I am sorry that the right hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) had not spoken before I said what I had to say, because two speeches in the form of valedictories are too much for this assembly to listen to in one day. I should like to say this, however. I went to the province of Quebec a stranger. I went into the small communities, and I shall never forget as long as I live the kindness, the hospitality and the courtesy that I was shown there on every occasion. It has always been a matter of regret to me that I have not been able to see more of the people of that province. Certainly the relations between the Minister of Justice and myself, strained though at times they were, have always been characterized by courtesy and kindness when we removed that veneer which sometimes is the result of political associations and partisan views. At heart we have never had any differences. We belong to the same profession; we have been members of the same associations; we know some of the vicissitudes of

[Mr. Bennett.]

public life, and I shall never forget his rising in his place to-day and, in the face of many political differences, expressing himself in such a kindly manner.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, as one of the representatives of Alberta I should like to take this opportunity to express our happiness and satisfaction that the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) is an Alberta product. His heart and soul were in that province. I think we have always been proud of his stalwart defence of Canadian and British unity and greatness. There are those who do not understand the social credit movement which I represent. Let me take this occasion to state this: that man is deliberately deluding himself who persists in believing that the movement which to-day is outstanding in Alberta is any less enthusiastic for Canadian and British unity and greatness than is the illustrious right hon. leader of the opposition. If at times it seems that this is not so it is simply because we are not understood.

I rejoice greatly in tendering to the right hon. gentleman the tribute of respect which I think we all feel for him, whether or not we agree with his political and economic ideas. Throughout Canada it is believed, I think, that to the extent of his ability all during his public life he has honestly and sincerely discharged his duties.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I hope the right hon. leader of the opposition and other hon. members of the house will excuse me if I leave at this time. It is part of my official duties to meet the deputy of the governor general when he arrives for prorogation, and I shall have to leave the house for that purpose.

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (Winnipeg North): I feel sure that if the leader of our group had been in his seat at this time he would have been extremely happy to associate himself with the sentiments that have been expressed to the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett). It may be true that the right hon. gentlemen has had his heart and soul in the province of Alberta, but I think his real heart and soul have been in the work carried on in this chamber. I can think of no one in this house who has given more time and attention to the work carried on here than has the right hon. leader of the opposition. If I were to be asked who was the hardest working member of this house I think I would give first place to him. I believe many of us who try to follow the work done here, who give as much time to it as we possibly can, often sit