

D22265

-2-

A Tribute to Liberalism

But I would also have you believe that I do not regard the great gathering that is assembled here this evening - a gathering, I am told, which numbers between three and four thousand persons - as related solely, or even mostly, to one person. I am far, I say, from believing that this tribute is one which is being paid only to the individual who has had the honour of being the leader of his party for twenty years. I believe it to be equally a tribute to loyal colleagues without whose constant support and aid and ability it would be impossible for any man to lead a political party for any length of time.

I would also have you believe that I feel it to be equally a tribute to the thousands of men and women who have loyally supported my colleagues and myself during the years we have fought together the battles of Liberalism in this country, for without the support of the thousands, yes, the hundreds of thousands, of men and women in the different parts of a vast land such as ours, it would not be possible for any leader to command a following, or any government to continue to hold office for any length of time or to put its policies into effect.

The gathering this evening is much more than a tribute to one man; it is much more than a tribute even to a government and its supporters; it is a tribute to those great principles