

to do so in both French and English. I have attempted these few words in French. Because of my inability to do justice to your beautiful language, a change to my mother tongue may, I feel, be not unwelcome. Before, however, I continue my speech in English, may I extend on behalf of other members of the Government and myself our warmest thanks to those who have organized this magnificent demonstration, in honour of our colleague, Mr. St. Laurent. May I also be allowed to thank all present for the very warm welcome so kindly extended to myself.

Let me say at once that I have come to Quebec to attend this complimentary banquet in honour of Mr. St. Laurent, and for that purpose solely. I have not come to discuss the party's platform and policies, or to debate public issues. For these purposes other occasions will, for me, be more appropriate. Mr. St. Laurent, no doubt, will wish to speak of some of the matters which, in this province, are a subject of political controversy. But I have come as the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada to pay, on behalf of the party and on behalf of the government, a tribute to one who is a truly great man, and who in the course of his few years in public life has rendered exceptional service to our party and to our country.