

have made their contribution in moving and seconding the address in reply. But I should like to make an exception on this occasion, because we had as mover and seconder two members of the armed forces, and I want not so much to congratulate them as to pay tribute to what they represent in our national life and what they mean to every one of us.

I have also a personal note to sound with respect to the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Harris), who was an old school chum of mine. As the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and I approach more mature years, we like to recall those who were our friends in the past.

I am sure I echo the thoughts of hon. members generally, when I say that there is another very good reason why I should mention these two hon. members. I should like to associate myself with the principle that we cannot do too much in these times to create and foster unity between the great French-speaking and English-speaking sections of our population. I have been as fortunate, I believe, as most hon. members throughout these years in having had many close friends in both groups in this house. I wish to pay tribute to both of them, and I do so on this occasion by saying a word of congratulation to the mover and seconder, although otherwise I would not have followed the practice which has been traditional.

I think if we are to add to the prestige of this chamber, a number of things similar to the customary congratulatory remarks which are merely traditional, which mean very little and which sometimes embarrass those to whom they are addressed, might very well be dispensed with. There is no better time than the present to start to sweep away some of the cobwebs of the past and clear out some of the underbrush, particularly in a war-time session of parliament.

The Prime Minister and members of the house generally will I think be interested to hear some declaration from me as temporary leader of this party in the house as to the policy of the official opposition in the house during this session. If I may say so, I do not think any hon. member will deny that throughout the years in which I have occupied a seat as a private member here I have always avoided narrow, old-fashioned, mean and petty partisan politics. At least I have tried to do so. And I have no desire on this occasion or on any other to depart from that well-established personal principle. Today, when Canada is fighting for her very life,

[Mr. Graydon.]

is no time for stress to be laid upon any artificial divisions. Surely that is fundamental. Our duty, I think—certainly I conceive it to be mine—is to treat every man, whatever his political views may be, as a Canadian first, last and always. For I say to the Prime Minister in all sincerity: we must not forget that this government is our government, the government of the Canadian people, and that it is charged with exceptionally heavy and exacting responsibilities, particularly in time of war. The new Progressive Conservative party, which at the moment I am leading, will try earnestly during this session to avoid unnecessarily dogging the heels of the present incumbents of office while those incumbents are engaged in the serious business of winning the war. This nation and this empire have too much at stake for us to play any little games while the enemy threatens us all.

Let anyone mistake declaration of our intentions for a blanket approval of misconceived policy, misguided administration, or inefficiency and waste in the carrying on of the war effort, I desire to make it clear that where we feel it is in the national interest to do so, and for that reason and on no lesser grounds, we shall criticize constructively and meet the policies of the administration in head-on collision. Of scarcely less importance than the government itself, is His Majesty's Loyal Opposition. My conception of the duty of that opposition during a time of war centres in an insistence upon clear and practical principles, effective and adequate measures designed to bring about a full-out effort to win the war, and a meticulous audit of governmental expenditures. If there be one thing above all others an opposition should endeavour to do, either in peace or in war, it is to ensure that every dollar collected from the taxpayers of Canada is expended without waste. That, we as an opposition shall try to do this session.

I have tried, as I am sure all other hon. members in the chamber have tried, to maintain some ideals in public life. There may be some who will joke about ideals. There may be some who will lightly spurn the idea of men in public life having principles. Sometimes our ideals and principles may become clouded by the issues which confront us, but I really believe that every public man must have ideals and that they must be high ideals. One of the ideals which I think must permeate all of us, every man in public life and every party, is complete willingness to render service to our country and our people. Once the ideal is accepted, the opportunity to render the service will come just as surely as night