

Before I entered parliament, I was for eight years in the Civil Service of Canada as deputy minister of Labour. After the defeat of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's administration in 1911, I continued, though not in parliament, to take an active interest in public affairs, and to pursue a further study of industrial problems. In 1919, as you may recall, I re-entered parliament, this time as leader of my Party. In all, I have had over thirty-one years in parliament. In length of membership, I am now the oldest member of the House of Commons. So today, I claim the right to speak with some authority on the position which certain communities enjoy in our national economy.

It may seem unpardonable to have enumerated at such length what, after all, are but so many milestones in one's life's journey. It is not by length of service, or by place or position, that the worth of service is to be measured. There are those, I know, who will say that it might have been better for Canada, if my years in office had been fewer. Be that as it may, I have said what I have, deliberately. I have wished to let my many friends in Waterloo County know something of what I feel I shall ever owe to this County for what it afforded me in the way of early opportunities of public service. I am pleased