

Felicitations to Sir Winston Churchill

of 1916 from the gallery of the British House of Commons, at that time out of office and in the shadows. I heard him speak there. I heard him again on a number of occasions during the 1930's when his voice, while heard, was not listened to. I heard him following one of his several constituency defeats. Many hon. members in this house heard him in 1942 when he spoke during one of the darkest days of war, when he used those immortal words descriptive of Great Britain and the commonwealth, "Some chicken, some neck".

I saw him last during the occasion of the prime ministers' conference in London. I had quite a lengthy chat with him. If I were to summarize the message which he gave, to which I alluded on an earlier occasion, it would be this, "Freedom must not fear fear"—the same indomitable spirit, the same courage, the same man who in defeat knew no defeat and in victory, while resolute, was always considerate. I think of the description of this man given in 1954 by one of Canada's great orators. Speaking in the city of Toronto these words were quoted by him:

Strange is the vigour in a brave man's soul. The strength of his spirit and his irresistible power, the greatness of his heart and the height of his condition, his mighty confidence and contempt of dangers, his true security and repose in himself, his liberty to dare and do, his alacrity in the midst of fears, his invincible temper, are advantages which make him master of fortune. His courage fits him for all attempts, makes him serviceable to God and man, and makes him the bulwark and defence of his being and country.

In that passage Mr. Brockington was quoting the words of a mystic Celtic poet in a little parsonage in the deep countryside of western England. The words were 300 years old. All would agree that mankind would have been poorer had he not lived. Indeed, the flame of freedom might well have been extinguished for generations but for him. Proud to be an Englishman, he belongs to every country which treasures freedom. He has lived to enjoy in the autumn of life the satisfaction that comes to few men, to know that he is loved.

Sir, it is therefore my honour and privilege to move a resolution to be transmitted to him, one of the greatest, if not the greatest, House of Commons man and parliamentarian in all British history. So that he may know he has the affectionate good wishes of the members of this house I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition:

That this house extend to the Right Hon. Sir Winston Churchill, K.G., O.M., M.P. its warmest congratulations on this, his 88th birthday anniversary.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure indeed in seconding the motion which

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

has been moved in such a felicitous way by the Prime Minister, a resolution which embodies the affectionate good wishes and sincere congratulations of this house on the birthday anniversary of Sir Winston Churchill. It is a happy circumstance that we should have in Ottawa at this time, and perhaps in the house this morning, the Canadian high commissioner to the United Kingdom who might possibly be charged by you, sir, with the mission of conveying this resolution in person when he returns to London.

Sir Winston is a man who has been equal to his times and, therefore, is already a man for the ages. He is one of the few men in history who have always been able to match the events they faced. As members of parliament ourselves we think of him, of course, as a great parliamentarian. But we think of him also, and always will, as the chief architect of the victory of free men over nazi tyranny. No one will be able to forget the inspiration of his words and of his person during the darker days of that struggle, and how indomitable his courage was in those days. And when victory was won we remember how far sighted he was in his approach to the problems of peace, how he rose above personal and political misfortunes, how he rose above the prejudice of national fears and looked forward to the day when all free men might be able to unite for progress and peace.

He was also the most human of human beings. I am personally very much aware of this because, like the Prime Minister, I was so fortunate as to have some association with him and, in common with all those who have ever had any association with him, I could add to the store of anecdotes which has gathered around him, for he is a man about whom legends gather and incomparable stories are told even during his lifetime; a man who has dominated history not only by his achievements but by his personality. So we rejoice with him today on his reaching 88 years and we send to him the old, old birthday wish, "Many happy returns".

(Translation):

Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, we are happy to join with the Prime Minister in extending our good wishes to Sir Winston Churchill who is celebrating today his 88th birthday.

Sir Winston was assuredly one of the most outstanding and remarkable figures for over 60 years. As a matter of fact, he took an active part in two world wars.

As the Leader of the Opposition just pointed out, Sir Winston has become a symbol of integrity, a symbol of courage and a sym-