

*The Address—Mr. Laing*

in an almost unanimous endorsement in his province of the policies of this government and its leader.

It is my good fortune to be among the first in this house to express congratulations to the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the members of his government upon the unprecedented success of June 27. Many opinions have been given and more will be heard to explain this victory, which is unparalleled in the parliamentary history of this nation. All words will fail, as my words now will fail, to put in proper perspective the supreme position occupied by the Prime Minister, who came to the service of this country upon the tragic and untimely death of another of Canada's giants.

He served with great distinction, first as Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and later as Canada's first Secretary of State for External Affairs. In this latter position he carried Canada's stature and respect among nations to new and impressive heights. On August 7, 1948, he was called to the leadership of the Liberal party by the widest support a national leader had ever received from delegates from all parts of Canada. His record in government had been excellent and indeed the history of all the departments of government he headed has been highly acceptable to the people of Canada. But neither his departmental record nor the general attestation of his government would have availed in such a victory without the monumental characteristics of leadership which he personally displayed.

The Canadian electorate prefers character to incandescence. The Canada-wide tour of the Prime Minister was a personal victory unequalled in the history of Canada, and reminiscent Canadians are called to remember in that connection the great personal magnetism of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I find it impossible to pay a higher tribute to my leader than to say that the pathway to this House of Commons for so many members who have come here for the first time was the solid foundation of his integrity.

When I refer to our Prime Minister it is easy for me to recall our leader of another day who across the years was the engineer and architect of so much of the road by which we have so safely come. His absence from this parliament will be keenly felt after a distinguished public service dating from 1908. I am of the thought that the senior members of this house will think that the house is not the same without the presence and counsel of the Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King. Hon. members in all parts of the house will rejoice with me that Providence has vouchsafed to him a continuing and even improving

health so that he may further benefit the people of this country by putting on permanent record details of the events and the challenges of the tempestuous days in which it was his privilege to serve.

As a British Columbian it is my great pleasure to say a word in merited praise of the minister from my province (Mr. Mayhew). His untiring efforts on behalf of his department in all the provinces of Canada, his zeal for the affairs of people as they are touched by federal policies in all parts of the country, his efficiency and deep integrity of purpose, have endeared him to our people and have greatly enhanced the standard of public service in our country.

We who come to this parliament for the first time from our most westerly province wish to pay our respects to the senior and continuing members from British Columbia who at all times have shown fidelity and diligence in the discharge of their public duties. Permit me to compliment the senior members in all parts of the house who have returned to this high office in the gift of the people. What a remarkable commentary upon personal service and what reassuring evidence of public gratitude it is when in this twenty-first parliament of Canada we can welcome one, in the person of the distinguished hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Power), who without interruption throughout the years has been a member since the thirteenth parliament. I note that in this parliament we have among us one who first came to the house in 1911.

I should like to express our sorrow at the death of the late Right Hon. Ian Alistair Mackenzie, who had been appointed a senator from British Columbia. We were proud of his life and accomplishments, and we deeply regret his passing. His was a distinguished public service, first in the provincial field and then in the wider sphere of federal affairs. His memorial, more enduring than bronze, is the veterans charter of Canada; his supreme eulogy the deep and abiding friendships which he made. No higher tribute can be paid to our country and to the opportunities it offers for those of ability and perseverance than the story of this Scots immigrant lad who forged to the very forefront in his people's regard.

It is the happy privilege of those who participate in this address to say a few words concerning their own provinces. Our beautiful province of British Columbia is enjoying an era of vast expansion. Industrial development and an equable climate have focused the eyes of all Canada upon our Pacific