

hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Dorion) to move and second the address, because in all likelihood the gentlemen who would have been returned would have now been sitting on this side of the house. Perhaps in the circumstances my hon. friends on the government side who have moved and seconded the address will pardon me if I am not too profuse in my congratulations in respect to what they have said. They are both becoming old members of the house. While I cannot congratulate them on what they have said, I can at least congratulate them on the rapidity with which they have followed their leader in making a volte face in relation to the policies which they have supported and advocated up to the present time. The new regime of regimentation in thought as well as in political action is being demonstrated very effectively by what we have thus far heard.

Now Mr. Speaker, may I thank the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe for his kindly reference to the health of the Prime Minister and myself. I am happy to say that I am in the best of health, and am happy to see the Prime Minister in such good health; I think we shall each require in the next few months all the health that may be vouchsafed us by a kindly Providence.

My hon. friend remarked that I had been conspicuous by my silence. I must thank him for drawing the attention of the house and the country to that circumstance. His leader has been telling the public over the radio that he encountered nothing but opposition from the leader of the opposition, that every time he has risen to put forth a reform, or has discussed anything in parliament for the well-being of the people, the leader of the opposition was there opposing him, and that his government had been opposed and opposed by those who sat opposite to them. Well, my hon. friend has at least drawn attention to the fact that as far as the Prime Minister's radio broadcasts are concerned he has had an open field, and had it all to himself. I cannot imagine anything that could be more congenial to him than a monopoly in any field, unless indeed it were in every field.

I should like to join with my hon. friend and his seconder in extending congratulations to the two hon. gentlemen who since our last gathering here have been appointed ministers of the crown, my hon. friend the member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Hanson) and my hon. friend the member for Yale (Mr. Stirling). Both these gentlemen have been members of this house for a long time. I could not help thinking when I read of their appointment how relieved they must have been to

recall that early in this parliament the government, realizing its own weakness, had taken care to see that any hon. member who might be appointed to the government would not have to go back to the country and get the endorsement of his constituents. These gentlemen had not to follow that old custom. After all it was not such a bad custom. I had a certain sympathy with the idea of not obliging ministers to seek re-election immediately after a general election, but in cases for example, where appointments are made after a government has been in office three or four years and has failed during that time to carry out any of its promises, I think that the old custom of allowing the electorate an opportunity to express their views of the administration in as many ways and at as many times as may be possible is one that might well have been preserved. However, may I say that I think all of us on this side of the house are pleased that these hon. gentlemen have received at last such marked recognition of their abilities and their political services. I extend to them our very warm and cordial congratulations. If they will permit me to give them one little word of counsel as well, I would say that as from the signs of the times it would appear that their tenure of office is not likely to be very long, they should do all they possibly can in the time at their disposal to enhance their reputation as ministers of the crown, because this may be the last chance they will have.

My hon. friend, the former Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. MacLaren), the hon. member for St. John-Albert, who has retired, is I understand to receive in the course of a short time an appointment to a very high office in the gift of the crown as a reward for his resignation. That appointment might perhaps have been made sooner but for the fact that if thereby a vacancy had been occasioned a by-election would of course have been expected; but now we have reached the last session where it is the case that a vacancy may remain unfilled, provided it has not occurred prior to the session. So no doubt we shall be seeing the hon. member for St. John-Albert receive the high appointment which we understand is coming to him. May I say that when that appointment comes he will have the best wishes of all hon. members on this side of the house.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We hope he may be long spared to fill the high office, as we believe he will, with every credit to himself and to his native province.