

We shall never forget the unflinching confidence he placed in the French Canadians' sincerity during the historical and tragical moments which we experienced during the past few years. His understanding enabled our country to pass that critical period of our history without any clash, all to the best interests of the country. We have admired and supported him in the past and he may rest assured that his name will forever live in our hearts.

And when the time comes to write history, the Canadian people will unanimously recognize the unrivalled qualities of this great statesman.

Mr. L. O. BREITHAUP (Waterloo North) (Text): I realize, Mr. Speaker, that we are pressed for time, and I can assure you that my remarks will be brief and to the point. As the representative of the constituency of Waterloo North, the riding which first sent our illustrious Prime Minister to parliament, I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without paying a tribute to him for the splendid work he has done on behalf of Canada.

The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low) mentioned, I believe, that the Prime Minister rode a horse for a good many years. To that I might add that the horse started in a good riding, is the right kind of horse, and has come a long way. On behalf of the riding I wish to express to the Prime Minister our sincerest congratulations on this, his twentieth anniversary as Prime Minister, and to express the hope that he may be spared for many more years of useful service.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I wish I could begin to tell hon. members what it means to me to be surrounded today by those with whom I have been most closely associated in the work of government and in the work of this parliament, and to hear the kind tributes which have been expressed on this occasion. I know that hon. members will make allowance for some of the things which have been said much too generously. I can assure all hon. members that every word which has been spoken today will retain its place in my mind as long as memory itself endures.

I know that, in speaking of the twenty years I have been in the office of Prime Minister, a good many have said to themselves, "I do not know how to account for it." This comment has not been confined to those of any one party. I have heard that members of my own party have said the same thing

on occasions. I know that some hon. gentlemen opposite have said it repeatedly. I myself will not attempt to give an answer because I could not if I tried. All I wish to say is that, in looking back over those years and asking myself how it comes about that I should be speaking in this House of Commons to its members this afternoon, I can account for it, so far as my part may have contributed in any way, only by recalling what I owe to those whom my colleague the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. MacKenzie) has referred to this afternoon, and to a few others whom he might also have named. I believe that for all of us the best that is in us comes from the past. After all, we only play our little part as a result of the sacrifices which have been made by others and for which we reap the reward. So I thank my colleague for having reminded me, the house and country, of those who are much in my mind and heart today.

To speak of my years of office, I think I can truly say that such good fortune as I have had in my present position has been due in large part to the ministers of the crown by whom I have been surrounded, to their great ability and great loyalty. It has been due also to the marvellously loyal support which I have received over the years from those who have been my followers and supporters in this House of Commons. It has been due also in large measure to the assistance which has been given to the work of the Prime Minister's office by members of the public service, the assistance which has been given by officials of this house and by many who are in very humble positions. Without their efficient service and loyalty it would be impossible for any one in an important position to perform his public duties. I do not forget either the kindness of my friends of the press. Though some of them may differ with me, many of them have given me loyal and helpful support, and all have given me the best of comradeship.

May I say to hon. gentlemen opposite that while I cannot thank them for the fact that I am still in office, and hope to be in office for a little while longer at least, I thank them most warmly for the courtesies which they have extended toward me in all the years I have been here. I think I have been particularly lucky in the friendships I have had among hon. members on all sides of the house. I shall always remember gratefully the kindness that has been shown me on many occasions by the other side of the house and never more so, may I say, than today. Above all, I do not