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Did time permit, I should like to speak of many others who are much in my thoughts tonight, but I realize you desire to have me speak more particularly of our party and I will, therefore, come to what I wish most to say in that regard.

A Remarkable Party Record

I have said that, in these days, twenty years is a long time for anyone to be the leader of a political party. What is more remarkable, however, is the fact that in that period of twenty years there have been, as Mr. Lapointe has said, five general elections, of which the Liberal party has carried four. What, perhaps, is most remarkable of all, is that at the present time, at the end of those twenty years, the government has in parliament a larger following than has been given to any other political leader in the history of Canada. That, ladies and gentlemen, has not come about wholly by chance. I shall give you some of the reasons which, to my mind, help to account for our having the strong party we have today.

First I should place the success which has attended our efforts to secure and maintain unity within the party. That is best exemplified by the colleagues I have at my side today, and the colleagues I have had beside me in the