

one occasion having dinner with him in Quebec city, on the day he was to give his decision to the electors of Quebec East, Sir Wilfrid Laurier's old seat. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) was grieved to have to leave his dear electors of Kamouraska county, who had given him his start in public life.

There are other ministers who have been kind to me, and whom I have supported against the Tories and against hypocrites of every description. Starting in the west there is my hon. friend the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. Mackenzie), who, I am sure, remembers the days when the Bren gun matter was discussed. One afternoon about three o'clock, after one of the Tories from Toronto had spoken, I rose in my place to defend the minister; and although *Hansard* does not record it, I was so pleased to hear my chief the Prime Minister say, "hear, hear" when I was giving h . . . to the other side. Then there is the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon), who comes from Alberta. At one time he was the lone Liberal member from that province, but thanks to his good work and popularity the Liberal representation from Alberta is much larger now, and it is very brilliant. Then there is our friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), who is a born fighter. Sometimes I do not agree with his policies, but he is a Liberal to the core, and he is the kind I like.

Passing over Manitoba and coming to Ontario, we come to Windsor. I was the Liberal member who spoke on behalf of the party at the nomination of the Minister of Labour (Mr. McLarty), who, I believe, is one of the best members of the cabinet and who has a secretary well worthy of him. They both have the spirit of the old school. Both are broad-minded; both are liberal minded; both are worthy of the confidence that is reposed in them. Then there is my hon. friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), my friend of all time, my right arm in the civil service committee. We fought and won many battles together, and no one was more pleased than I when he took over the Post Office Department. There is also my hon. friend the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Gibson), who is doing very well. He is a young man, but his merit has been recognized by his chief and his colleagues, and we are all proud of him.

Coming to the province of Quebec, I have already spoken of my leader there. There is also my hon. friend the Minister of National Defence for Air (Mr. Power). He is all right. He is just as bright and as conscientious as he could be. His only trouble is that sometimes he is betrayed by those under him, but he is clever enough to realize who is responsible and to deal with such matters himself. I remember when we prepared political cam-

paigns together. Those were the happiest days of my life; I enjoyed them very much, because we had discovered the truth to tell the people. Then there is my hon. friend the Secretary of State (Mr. Casgrain). I am sure one of his proudest recollections is that of the day when he came to Trois Pistoles to protest against the gerrymander which was being carried on by the Tories. At that time he spoke to an enthusiastic crowd of ten thousand people, who were cheering all the Liberals and giving something else to the other party. There is also my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Cardin), who is not well at the present time and to whom we wish a speedy recovery.

Going down to the maritimes, there is my hon. friend the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Michaud). I remember being at Campbellton at the side of the Prime Minister, who was then leader of the opposition, supporting the Minister of Fisheries in his first campaign to become a member of this House of Commons. At that time, as I remember, two mass meetings were held simultaneously in the two theatres in the city, and when the leader of the opposition and some other persons tried to express their views only two or three dozen people stayed to listen to them.

Turning now to Nova Scotia we find representing that province two brilliant members of the cabinet. There is the Minister of National Defence for Naval Affairs (Mr. Macdonald), who now occupies the seat of Kingston City, the traditional constituency of Sir John A. Macdonald, and who is doing well in his department because he is an honest man. I pay the same compliment to the Minister of Finance. I remember, in days gone by when the party was in opposition, we were both in the attic. We were neighbours, our rooms were close together, and when I wanted to coin a phrase to damn Mr. Bennett he was my Webster.

I rise to congratulate among others the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Roebuck) upon the excellent speech he made yesterday. He belongs to the old traditional school, and when he speaks he is listened to. When he says something it carries weight.

Let us come now to the tremendous sum which we are asked to vote in this resolution. It represents one-half of the total debt of Canada from confederation until now. It is a tremendous amount; everyone says so. And to meet the expenditures contemplated it has been suggested that we adopt the conclusions of the Sirois report. I am against it. I have published editorials in a French daily, which has the largest circulation in the province of Quebec, in order to set forth my views on the