

I do hope that, in giving up the position which he has held with such distinction, my hon. friend will find in the relief from the heavy burdens of that office an opportunity to gain full restoration of his health and that he will be spared many years to enjoy some of the rewards of the service which he has given to this parliament and our country.

In the name of parliament and of the country I take great pleasure in saying to my hon. friend that I think he has merited the thanks of both.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggarr): There are a few rare occasions in this house when the measure of a man can be taken and when tribute can be paid to a person apart altogether from the views which he may hold. I am glad, therefore, this afternoon that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) has paid tribute to the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Hanson). We have disagreed sharply in principle and on policy from time to time, but I think the hon. member for York-Sunbury has won the respect of all members of the house regardless of our political opinions and other affiliations.

The Prime Minister has eulogized his faithfulness to duty, which he has performed so well, and I am not going to enter into any details of that description. All I wish to say to the hon. member is this, that we join in wishing him many years of life in which he may look back upon this occasion, which I think must be to him a source of real personal gratification.

The leadership of the opposition is a very important position in our British and Canadian parliamentary institutions. Upon the shoulders of the leader of the opposition there devolves a responsibility which is perhaps exceeded only by that of the Prime Minister himself, and I am quite sure we all feel that the hon. member for York-Sunbury has fulfilled that high office ably and well.

I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) upon having been selected to act in the capacity of house leader in the absence of the leader who was chosen at Winnipeg. The hon. member has been here for the same length of time as I have been myself, and during the seven years we have grown to know him, we have grown to like him. Although I disagree sharply with the point of view of the Conservative party, nevertheless I appreciate the fact that to-day the party itself has chosen, to lead it in this house, a young man who has a great deal of charm of manner and who has always shown to all of us a keen sense of fair play. I wish him a long tenure of his office.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, if there is one thing in this country which we can very well afford to get along without from this time forward it is playing politics. I have been favourably impressed, since the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Hanson) assumed the responsibility of leader of the opposition, with the degree to which it seems to me he was free from ulterior political motive in the things he said. I desire to congratulate him upon that fact. Many times he was frank and sincere in his expressions to the point at which, perhaps, from a political point of view, he may have been described as indiscreet; but anything which he might have lost through any apparent indiscretion as a result of frankness was more than made up, I think, by the respect which was engendered, at least so far as I was concerned, by his frankness, his sincerity, and his sense of honour in carrying out his duties in this house. Everything else that I should like to say in this regard has already been said, and I therefore simply associate myself with those who have already spoken.

May I also congratulate the member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) upon the assumption of duties which he will find anything but pleasant as the days go by. I have no doubt he is public spirited enough to exert himself to the very limit in the discharge of his responsibilities. I doubt that in the whole history of the Anglo-Saxon race there has ever been a time when we needed more than we do to-day men of vision, men of open mind and men of honour, men who are capable of learning new things and learning from the old where that is found necessary. I wish to congratulate the hon. member upon the degree to which I believe he possesses the qualifications which are necessary to enable him to come under the classification which I have indicated. I may say, as I remarked to him this afternoon when I congratulated him personally, I shall be listening most attentively to all that he says.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I should be a little less than human and have an entire absence of pride and vanity in my make-up were I not deeply touched by the kind expressions with respect to myself to which utterance has been given here this afternoon by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and by the leaders of the two groups to my left.

My first words to you, sir, and to the Prime Minister are, many thanks but not good-bye. If I have contributed in any measure to the