

Tributes to Members

indicated, to put forward before the house the point of view which would seem to me to advance the best interests of the country.

Naturally I wish to express particular pleasure at the entry into the house today of the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings (Mr. Nowlan). He is a great addition to the House of Commons. The marked confidence displayed by those who know him well in his constituency where the vote was taken was a great personal tribute, a recognition of his abilities, and I think it sufficiently indicates what may be expected of him here in the House of Commons.

Before I close these brief remarks may I say that I wish to pay great tribute to my friend the hon. member for Neepawa (Mr. Bracken) and to express the satisfaction I feel in the knowledge that he will be sitting here beside me in the house so that I may have the advantage not only of his friendship and advice but of his long years of training which have been referred to by the Prime Minister in his opening remarks. Mr. Bracken served his province extremely well for the longest period that any premier has occupied that office in any province of Canada.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Drew: If I am wrong, I shall be happy to be corrected.

An hon. Member: Murray of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Drew: I am informed that there was an exception in earlier years in Nova Scotia, where there are great traditions of good government. I am happy to be informed of that fact, but it in no way lessens the great period of responsibility and good service which stands to the credit of the hon. member for Neepawa (Mr. Bracken) before he entered this house.

From my understanding of the procedure in the assembly in which I have sat, which procedure I believe is similar to that here, it is not appropriate to make a political speech on the opening day and I do not intend to do so in any way. I simply wish to say that, in assuming the high office he occupied, his whole record in everything he has done indicates that he filled it with a sense of dignity, and with eminence.

I wish again to express to the Prime Minister my appreciation of his welcome to me here, and to express the hope that in the high office for which I have been chosen I may advance the interests of this house and of the country.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Like the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew), Mr. Speaker, I should like to begin by expressing on behalf of the party with which I am

associated a tribute to the late Mr. Dubois. We found him to be a kindly gentleman whom we liked and admired. The house is poorer because he has left us. I would also join with the Prime Minister in the tribute which he paid to the former Prime Minister of Canada and to say that we too rejoice to see him here today. We hope that he may be spared many years in which to enjoy health, strength and vigour and in which, if I may suggest it once again, to write those memoirs of his long experience as leader of the government of Canada.

I also want to congratulate the Prime Minister upon his accession to office. Those of us who have been associated with him in various activities over the last few years admire his ability. We trust his integrity. As one who was associated with him at two international conferences I wish to say that while I disagree with some policies and principles of the party that he now leads, and shall disagree on occasion with the measures proposed by the government, I believe that the Liberal party of Canada, in choosing the right hon. gentleman as its leader and in elevating him to the office of Prime Minister, not only did something for the country but honoured itself.

I want also to welcome the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew). I believe that in the twelve years that I have been here the hon. gentleman is the seventh leader of the party and the sixth leader of the opposition. All of them with whom we have been associated in this house have won our esteem and respect for their courtesy, their ability and their integrity, and I hope and I trust that the hon. gentleman who has taken his place here today will have the same kindly feeling from us that his predecessors had.

I also wish to join with those who have paid a tribute to the hon. member for Neepawa (Mr. Bracken). The hon. gentleman served western Canada for many years. We knew him there as one of the leaders of the old Progressive movement, a movement which was organized by the farmers in a time of stress. He held high office in his province before he came to this house. I can assure him of this, that as far as this party with which I am associated is concerned, we have the most kindly feeling for him, and we hope that he will be spared a good many years in health and strength.

To all the other hon. gentlemen who have been promoted to various positions, to those who have come among us today and who occupy positions of trust and of responsibility, both in the cabinet and as assistants to the ministers, we say welcome and we wish them well.