

his long years of service to this country. One does not need to agree with the policies of a man in the position in which the Prime Minister finds himself today in order to pay his respects on an occasion like this. Twenty years is a long time. I can speak on that with some experience. In a rather smaller field it was my privilege to serve for more than twenty years, and when I left there were some who said that that was twenty years too long. I feel sure that there is nobody in Canada who would say that today about the present Prime Minister. I said nobody would say it today, but again I reserve that right to say what I think wise about it tomorrow or later.

I am very glad, Mr. Speaker, to have the opportunity of associating myself with those sitting with me in extending to the Prime Minister our congratulations on his long years of service. I am sure we all wish for him long life and much happiness in the days ahead.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, we too of the C.C.F. party join in the good wishes that have just been extended by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken) to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). We hope that he may yet enjoy many years of life and happiness. He has been Prime Minister for twenty years, one of the most challenging twenty years I suppose in world history. Indeed, when we think of the events since the first great war—the toppling of thrones, the rise of dictatorships, another great war, the elimination of dictatorships, the breaking up of empires—one realizes that the right hon. gentleman has been Prime Minister of Canada at the end of one of the great eras of human history. We join with all others in this house in expressing to him all our good wishes, and the hope that he may yet be spared to render service to our country.

Mr. SOLON E. LOW (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I am glad of this opportunity to add a word of congratulation to the Prime Minister on this occasion. It is no mean achievement to serve as the elected head of Canada's government for a full quarter of the nation's history. No matter what we may think, as I have said on another occasion, of the horse which the Prime Minister has been on during all those years, we all have to admit that he made a hell of a good ride. No matter how we may differ in our views on the policies advocated by the Prime Minister, there are a good many of us in the house I suppose who would be very happy to learn just how he had managed to achieve

[Mr. Bracken.]

those twenty years of service, and at the same time how he had managed to keep his remarkable vitality through all the years since he first became Prime Minister. I wish to join with other hon. members in extending congratulations and sincere personal wishes to the right hon. gentleman.

Hon. ALPHONSE FOURNIER (Minister of Public Works) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. St. Laurent), senior French-speaking minister in the present cabinet, I am happy to associate myself with those who have spoken before me in offering our most sincere congratulations and our best wishes to the Prime Minister on this happy anniversary.

We are assembled today to pay tribute to one of the greatest Canadians of all time. We are here to express our feelings of admiration, esteem and gratitude. For twenty years, Canada's Prime Minister. For twenty years, government leader of his country. We cannot help thinking of the studies, work and preparation represented in the achievement of such a career.

From early youth, the Prime Minister prepared himself by careful study, by meditation and travels in nearly every country of the world, for the post he has held for so long. While still a young man he became a member of the administration. A few years later he entered Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government. At that school, he increased his experience, developed his patience and qualified himself fully for the leadership of a great party. As soon as he entered parliament, he revealed himself an accomplished parliamentarian. His authority among party members and in parliament is beyond all question. He dedicated his life to the development of his country and to the happiness of his fellow countrymen. A tireless worker, he devoted his energies to the expansion throughout the world of his country's fame.

As peacetime leader, his administration was gratified with success after success. As wartime leader, he maintained unity among the various elements of our population, in the accomplishment of an admirable all-out effort which finally led Canada to victory.

Among our Canadian statesmen, he is probably the one who best understood the mentality, feelings and aspirations of my compatriots. He devoted his life to Canada's national unity, seeing the Canadian people as one group, without distinction of language, creed and customs. That is why he has enjoyed for such a long time and still enjoys the esteem and respect of my compatriots.