

Hon. R. B. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, honourable members of the Senate, honourable gentlemen of the House of Commons: On formal occasions, when the Commons desire to speak to the Sovereign or his representative, they speak through their Speaker; but perhaps it is not unfitting that on an occasion such as this the House of Commons should speak through its leader, the Prime Minister. I desire to reiterate on behalf of His Majesty's loyal Opposition the sentiments which he has so admirably expressed, and to associate myself, and those who are allied with me in the House of Commons, with every word that he has uttered.

For myself, I am lost in admiration of one whose life has been so given to public service and usefulness to his country as yours, sir. I could not but think as the Prime Minister was speaking that you must have remembered tales told by old men of the American Revolution, and of the War of 1812; that you must have memories of the struggle for responsible institutions, of the Confederation of Canada, and of the progress which has been made during these many years. It is a wonderful tale that has been told in Canada, yet it is but the reflection of the tale that has been told in other lands. You have seen monarchies rise and fall; you have seen great empires consolidated and dissolved into republics; you remember the proud history of France and all the vicissitudes of fortune that have come to her during the years since you were born. But one thing has remained, and it is reflected in this Chamber and in this Parliament: Despite all the changes recorded in history, the British Empire has endured; its parliamentary institutions have remained; and we have carried on here all the traditions that belong to those parliamentary institutions of which we are so proud.

It is a great pleasure and happiness to young men to have in your life an example of willing service to a great country and of proud confidence in the greatness of the land we call our home. So, personally, and on behalf of those with whom I am associated, I congratulate you very heartily upon having attained the one hundredth anniversary of your birth; and hope that the example of your life may be a lodestar, a guiding star, to the youth of this country, to lead them to give something of their mind and talent to their country, as you have done; and I trust that as many more years pass you may still be permitted to come to this old legislative hall—new, yet old—and make your contribution to the common good of Canada.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE KING.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND (Translation): My dear colleague, a very fine book has been written on lives that are necessary. It is stated therein that each person in the world contributes to the world's work, and that, however modest may be his station in society, he co-operates none the less in the industry of the human hive. If all lives are necessary, all are not equally useful. An army may combine within its ranks the goodwill of all who are animated by the same patriotic spirit, but it requires commanders to lead it. So it is in civil life. The members of a community may have an instinctive desire to serve, but unless a voice is heard calling them on to nobler deeds there is danger that each may confine his effort to his own interests. Providence has ordained that each generation should produce spirits born to command, whose natural vocation it is to interest themselves in the welfare of the community. It often happens that citizens animated with high ambition and a noble zeal take control of affairs. There are others who do not offer themselves, but towards whom all eyes are turned, and whose influence and prestige command respect and affection. They are the favoured ones, rich in mind and heart, endowed with wisdom and goodness.

My dear colleague, you are one of these elect. I have had the opportunity to observe you for half a century. But long before it was my privilege to appreciate your noble qualities my seniors had already benefited by them. The entire district surrounding your native city of St. Hyacinthe has recognized in you its leading spirit. You have inspired its policy and guided and sustained its progress. To it you have communicated your high conception of civic and national virtue. You have been to it the symbol of probity and honour. A country which possesses such chosen souls honours itself in honouring them. My dear colleague, we are proud of you and happy to celebrate your hundredth anniversary, which crowns an admirable career like those rays of sunshine that linger long at eventide and prolong the light of day.

Hon. WILLIAM B. ROSS: I am pleased to join in doing honour to our colleague, Senator Dessaulles, and would like to re-echo what has been so well said by the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and my friend the leader of this House. There is not much that I can add, but I presume I shall be pardoned if I mention the fact that some thirty years ago while I was connected with a newspaper, I developed a taste for discovering all the aged men in the country. The record of the recollections thus obtained will