

*Right Hon. J. L. Ilsley*

and honesty, made a contribution to the public life of Canada of which I think not only he but the nation itself can be proud.

I am glad that this opportunity was afforded to us to express the general feeling of admiration and respect that we feel for the Minister of Justice whose resignation is before us tonight. Regardless of Mr. Ilsley's party associations, I think his retirement is a loss, not only to the Liberal party but to the country as a whole. The country can ill afford to spare men of the type of the former Minister of Justice. Speaking on behalf of those associated with me and of myself personally, may I say we feel that his retirement is indeed a distinct loss, not only to the government and to the party, but to the entire country.

Tonight I listened to a discussion between the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). I presume, from what was said, that in all probability this is the last time that we shall see the Prime Minister in the position of leader of the Liberal party, at least; I am not quite clear with regard to the other high position which he occupies. In any event, I should like to add this comment before I sit down. I think we can say to him that we wish him well in retirement from the one office or from the two offices, whichever he himself may decide, and as to which we shall probably know when the house assembles in the autumn, or after Christmas, or whenever the new session may be called.

Mr. SOLON E. LOW (Peace River): I should like to associate myself, Mr. Speaker, and those who sit with me with all the good things that have been said with regard to both the former Minister of Justice (Mr. Ilsley) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). We greatly admire both these gentlemen for their high personal qualities and their integrity. We hate to see them leave public life. We feel that they have set a great example. In my associations with both of them I personally have had pride in the fact that I received the utmost satisfaction with regard to anything that I have taken before them. I feel that the country is losing from those two high offices men of great ability and outstanding qualities.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): Despite the fact, Mr. Speaker, that the leader of this group spoke for the group when he referred to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ilsley), whose resignation we have received, I should like to state personally my own great feeling of loss as a result of the fact that Mr. Ilsley has decided first of all to give up his portfolio and later on his membership in

[Mr. Coldwell.]

this house. It is a loss that this country can ill afford. Mr. Ilsley, in all the offices he has filled in the ministry, has, I think, proved himself to be one of the greatest cabinet ministers Canada has ever had. There was nothing spectacular about him; but his integrity and earnestness were so manifest that no one who watched him, as I did from my seat almost across from him, could help being impressed. As I said before, I feel that his leaving public life is a loss to this country as well as to the party, of which he has been an ornament and a useful servant for so many years.

(Translation):

Mr. A. PHILEAS COTE (Matapedia-Matane): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to say a few words in French, not on behalf of all French-speaking members of the house, for I have no authority to do so, but in my own name. I should like to voice and put on record my heartfelt wishes.

I hope that during the August convention, the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), who seems to be enjoying good health, will hear a unanimous appeal to remain by our side, if not as leader of the Liberal party, then at least as prime minister.

I have no objection to another party leader being chosen when the right hon. Prime Minister decides to withdraw from that position but, to my mind, there never was a time when we needed the right hon. Prime Minister Mackenzie King more than we do today. Political events of recent elections have made that obvious.

Since the people on the whole place their trust in the Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie King, I honestly believe that he could do the country no greater service than by remaining in office as prime minister as long as he wishes, rather than by becoming governor general. Knowing that his successor is already chosen, he could resign whenever it suited him to do so.

In the meantime, I hope I speak on behalf of most if not all the members in saying to the Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie King: "Long live the King".

(Text):

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when I asked to be permitted to table instead of to read the correspondence which passed between the Minister of Justice and myself today, I had in mind the desire of hon. members to bring proceedings to a close as speedily as possible. As words have been expressed by others in reference to my colleague the Minister of Justice, I should like to read the correspon-