

There is one colleague of whom I am sure they would want me to make, and of whom I should like to make special mention. It is the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Louis St. Laurent. No man could possess a truer friend than I possess in Mr. St. Laurent; no leader could have a more loyal colleague; no prime minister and no government could have an abler counsellor.

When I asked Mr. St. Laurent to join the government, I did so at a moment when I felt the loss I had sustained in the passing of the Right Honourable Ernest Lapointe, the closest associate and dearest friend I had in public life, was something which might prove more than I could bear. Mr. Lapointe and I, though differing in race and religion, but never in our views of what was best for Canada and her people, had worked so closely together over so many years, that I felt that no one could be found to take his place. Had Mr. St. Laurent not come to occupy the portfolio and to take, at the Council table, the place which Ernest Lapointe so ably filled, I very much question if I would be speaking to you tonight. I shall leave it at that. I have said enough to let you know what his presence in the Ministry has meant to me. Some day, you will know what it has meant to you and to the whole of Canada.