

members from other parts of Canada found themselves, I am perfectly certain that had Mr. St. Laurent withdrawn his support of myself, or, indeed, wavered, in that support, I should have had no alternative but to tender my resignation, and with it the resignation of the Ministry.

The results of the election of 1945 may be regarded as a sufficient answer to the question whether, in the minds of the electors, the right course was taken by the administration at that time. The complete answer would require a knowledge of conditions as they might have become, had the government not been able to carry on. Such conditions, moreover, would have to be considered in contrast with what we now know of the success which attended an unbroken war effort on the part of Canada.

Service to the Party and to the State

Perhaps I have said enough to enable you to judge what I feel is owing by the party, and by the country, to our guest of this evening; enough to enable you to sense something of what Mr. St. Laurent's services have meant to both. Is it not true that Mr. St. Laurent occupies a position which is virtually unique in our public life? And are we, ourselves, not greatly honoured in having this opportunity to pay a tribute to the high public service he has rendered to the Liberal Party and to Canada over the past five years?