

themselves, and that we should look upon Providence as working in and through personality in order to bring about a better condition of affairs. So in respect to the splendid crop of last year I believe that Providence co-operated with the tillers of the soil. It is important always to know that we are on the side of Providence, and I think the excellent crop was due entirely to the co-operation of the farmers of Canada with Providence and of Providence with them.

Now, if we use the same line of argument with regard to the government of the day, we must conclude that since we met here on January 7 Providence has been good to us in preserving the government intact, and we believe Providence is going to be still better to us by co-operating with us in getting through this House a crop of legislation that will be of special benefit to the people of Canada. I believe, Sir, the fact that Providence has not annihilated it is proof that Providence is working hand in hand with the government of the day.

Miss MACPHAIL: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. gentleman a question? Might it not prove that Providence is merciful?

Mr. McINTOSH: Providence is not only merciful; Providence shows mercy by the spirit of true co-operation. Consequently we have not only been able to keep together, but we have had new accessions of strength to our ranks since January 7.

An hon. MEMBER: From where?

Mr. McINTOSH: I am just coming to that. The first accession of strength to our ministerial ranks was in the return to this House of the right hon. Prime Minister, which means that the electorate of a part of Canada has made a favourable pronouncement upon the policies of this government. The name of the right hon. leader of this party brings to one's remembrance some of the eminent Liberal leaders of the past. Our first leader after confederation was the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, and his integrity, his honour and his reputation as one of the leading statesmen of this Dominion will not soon be forgotten by the people. During his leadership he was loyally supported by the members of the party from coast to coast. His mantle fell upon the Hon. Edward Blake, and he in his intellectual attainments and statesman-like qualities was easily superior to any of his contemporaries. His followers gave him

unflinching support. He was succeeded by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who after winning the respect and support of his native province, impressed his personality upon the whole Dominion. He was Prime Minister for fifteen years, and during that time won the admiration of the empire. He brought to the leadership of the Liberal party and to the direction of the affairs of this nation a vision and a statesmanship that will enshrine his memory in the esteem and affection of Canadians for generations to come. After Sir Wilfrid's death the mantle of liberalism fell upon the present Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal party. I need only add, Mr. Speaker, that just as the Liberals of the past stood firmly and loyally behind the eminent leaders of the party to whom I have referred, so the Liberals of to-day are going to stand enthusiastically behind our present leader. We are going to do so because we realize that he is eminent not only as a scholar and as an author, but also as a statesman, and his sympathy for and co-operation with labour has won him the respect and support of Liberals from one end of the Dominion to the other. He has given the Liberal party the highest kind of leadership, and we are only too willing to accord him our loyal and hearty support. It seems to me that the sooner our opponents realize the intentions of the Liberal party in the House and out of it in this regard the better it will be for the public life of the Dominion.

Now, Mr. Speaker, another accession to our strength has been the return to this House of a new Minister of Railways and Canals in the person of the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Dunning). Before dealing with that point more fully I would like to refer to a statement placed on Hansard by the hon. member for North Oxford (Mr. Sutherland). It is perhaps not necessary for me to read the statement, but it was to the effect that the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Dunning) had given expression to a denial of what was given under oath in Saskatchewan during the grain investigation of 1924. There was also another point in connection with a certain political yarn which, although not true, had been repeated both inside and out of the House of Commons. In connection with the hon. member for Regina I must say that the argument of the hon. member for North Oxford was very superficial and undignified; when we are criticizing and judging public men we should be more careful. In that ar-