

That was one of the gravest tests of unity ever faced by a government and a political party in Canada. The action of the French-speaking Liberal Ministers in continuing to support me in meeting that situation avoided a condition of chaos in government at that time, and preserved the unity of Canada's government, and the unity of the country before the enemy and the world. What is the result today? Despite all the charges and counter-charges of a general election campaign, the country is united, and thoroughly prepared to move forward to meet the new problems which have now to be faced.

There are on this platform tonight the colleagues from this province who were with me and stood loyally by me at that time. This being the first occasion I have had since then to appear with them in their own province, I should like publicly to acknowledge the great debt I feel I shall ever owe to them, and which I believe our country also will ever owe to them for helping to steady the ship of state as she weathered the gale that, at one time, threatened her existence.

I should like to pay my personal tribute to each and every one of the Ministers present and, particularly, to my new colleagues, who even before their entry into the Ministry had gained national prominence. Their presence in the Ministry speaks more emphatically than any words of confidence I could express.