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ADDRESS OF WELCOME

*To The Right Honourable Stanley Baldwin, P.C., M.P., LL.D.,
Prime Minister of Great Britain.*

On behalf of the Government, the Parliament and People of Canada, I have the honour to extend to you a hearty welcome to the Capital of Canada. This is the first occasion on which a Prime Minister of Great Britain has visited our country during his term of office, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity thus afforded the Canadian people to extend greetings to a British Prime Minister on Canadian soil.

Our welcome is not less cordial to Mrs. Baldwin and to the members of your family, by whom you are accompanied. Our one and only regret is that the time at your disposal during your present visit will not permit you and the members of your party to traverse Canada from coast to coast. We cannot acknowledge too sincerely your courtesy in giving up to travel and to public appearances so much of the time which it was hoped might afford a brief respite from the responsibilities and cares of your great office, the unremitting duties of which you have filled with such fidelity over a number of years.

We are deeply sensible of the special significance of your visit at this moment in our history. The Confederation of the Provinces of Canada, the sixtieth anniversary of which we celebrate this year, was accomplished through the co-operation of the British Crown, the British parliament and the people of British North America. It is more than gratifying therefore that in the commemoration of this event, we of the Dominion should be favoured with the presence of a representative of His Majesty, in the person of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, and a representative of the Parliament of Great Britain in the person of its distinguished Prime Minister.

In the preamble to the British North America Act it is declared that the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have expressed their desire to be federally united under the Crown, with a Constitution similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom. From this desire we have never deviated. In the sixty years of our history as a Federation, the Crown has been a constant and essential element in our constitutional development. The British North America Act moreover, was a statute of the parliament of Great Britain. We hold the charter of our liberties from the Mother of Parliaments, whose practice and procedure we have ever sought to follow, and whose venerable traditions it has been our constant effort to maintain.

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W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

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