

Subject... Opening of Mount Royal Hotel

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## MOUNT ROYAL HOTEL OPENING GREAT AFFAIR

Premier of Canada and Sir  
Lomer Gouin Deliver  
Speeches at Banquet

### GOLDEN KEY

Doors Opened Never to Be  
Closed, Says Official in  
Making Presentation

Pomp and splendour, mirth and merriment together with joyous scenes were the outstanding characteristics of the official opening of the Mount Royal hotel last night with a banquet and ball, at which the guest of honor was Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Premier of Canada.

In addition to the Premier, those present included Sir Henry Thornton, president of the Canadian National Railways, Lord Shaughnessy, K.C., V.O., Sir Lomer Gouin, Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, president Bankers' Association of Canada, W. M. Birks, president Montreal Board of Trade, toastmaster, the Right Rev. J. C. Farthing, Bishop of Montreal, Senators Dandurand and Smeaton White, and Sir Arthur Currie.

The official opening was an event which marked the turning over of another page in the social and commercial history of the city. Twelve hundred guests, representing practically all phases of enterprise were present, and for eight hours the interior of the new structure presented a kaleidoscopic picture which dazzled the eye and impressed upon the mind the optimism in the future of Montreal of the company responsible for the erection of the hotel.

No pains had been spared by the management to make the evening a huge success and on leaving, departing guests paid unstinted tribute to the enjoyment they had experienced.

### STARTED AT 7:30.

Promptly at 7:30 p.m. streams of taxicabs halted before the Peel street entrance. Immaculately dressed men and gorgeously gowned women in hundreds poured into the rotunda, there to see the first evidence of the opening in the shape of artistically arranged baskets of flowers sent by leading hotels in Canada and the United States to the management in honor of the occasion.

For half an hour before dinner was announced, the rotunda held a mass of guests, which, however, quietly disappeared within a few minutes, and without the slightest semblance of disorder, when an uniformed trumpeter sounded the signal for entrance into the dining rooms.

Within a few minutes, the staff of 200 waiters moving with the celerity of a well-trained staff, saw that the guests were well served. The dinner menu was arranged in a booklet which proved the souvenir of the evening while the dinner itself bore proof of epicurean taste and most excellent cooking.

During the progress of the meal, a photographic expert performed a task that has never been equalled in Canada before. A flashlight photograph of the main dining-room was taken and within a few minutes, the proofs of the photograph were exhibited to the astonishment of the guests.

### PREMIER KING.

With dinner finished, Mr. Birks introduced Premier King who, in a short speech dealt with the evolution of hotels in Montreal compiled, as he said from the archives at Ottawa.

Describing the opening of the hotel as an historic occasion, he said the guests were "participants in a function which serves to unite the beginnings of our country's history with all that represents the highest development of our present day commercial, industrial and social life."

Nearly four centuries ago, more than 1,000 persons welcomed Jacques Cartier but, however great his vision, "it is safe to assume that Cartier did not realize that the little Indian village below the mountain would fade away, and in its place would arise a mighty city, midway on the highway of Empire between Vancouver and London, and the growing needs of which would call into existence this magnificent structure."

Enlarging on his search into archives at Ottawa, the Premier explained that 200 years ago hotel proprietors struggled to escape the "most primitive forms of exchange—barter." Later, around 1776, there was a record of an hotel known as the "Two Galloping Horses" in which, according to the records, the dinners were excellent but the accommodation abominable.

What might be described as the progenitor of the Mount Royal Hotel, however, was a coffee house opened in 1792 by a Mr. Dillon, and called.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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