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Speeches Outside Parl

375 Hear Mr. King Pay Notable Tribute to Malcolm MacDonald

Affectionate regard in which Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, High Commissioner for the United Kingdom is held by the Canadian people, and their regret over his departure to become Governor General of Malaya, was expressed by Prime Minister King at a farewell dinner tendered Mr. MacDonald last night by the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs at the Chateau Laurier.

It was peculiarly fitting, Mr. King said, that since Canada must bid farewell to one of her staunchest friends, that the parting be a function, sponsored by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.

"There is no man of Mr. MacDonald's age in any part of the world", the Prime Minister said, "better versed in international affairs than he is. He has been a member of three British Cabinets, and now closes a term of five years representing the Government of the United Kingdom in Canada."

"We are parting with one who has been serving his country and our country."

In an address whose serious tenor was enlightened by flashes of humor which brought bursts of laughter from upwards of 375 guests, Mr. MacDonald modestly

ascribed what success he enjoyed in Canada, not to his own efforts but to a "team of which I was but one member". He spoke of such other members of the British "team" as Sir Patrick Duff, Stephen Holmes, Arthur M. Wiseman, Gordon Monroe, and other members of his staff.

Mr. MacDonald spoke of the immense assistance given him in his Ottawa post by his sister Miss Sheila MacDonald, who was present at the dinner. "Much of the credit belongs to Sheila", he said.

"Sheila has given, if I may say so, unstintingly of her lovely char-

acter to the cause of friendship between Canada and Great Britain. On hearing reports of her speeches in many parts of your country, I felt it was high time I resigned so that she might take on the job and do it better."

Grant Dexter, chairman of the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs presided at the dinner, and the retiring High Commissioner was presented to the gathering by E. J. Tarr, of Winnipeg, national chairman of the institute.

Among the guests were members of the Dominion Cabinet, leaders of the opposition and opposition groups, members of Commons and Senate and a very large representation of British Commonwealth representatives and members of the Capital's diplomatic corps.

Mr. Tarr spoke of his long friendship with the guest of honor both in Canada and overseas, and of Mr. MacDonald's hobbies as well as of his official duties.

"Although he has been here for only five years, I venture to say that there is no one who knows more of the bird life of the Ottawa valley than Malcolm MacDonald", Mr. Tarr said. "He has a natural, not just an acquired affection for Canada. Few have as genuine an understanding and appreciation of our life and our problems."

In what he termed his "valedictory" the High Commissioner declared that Canada today is recognized everywhere on earth as a nation.

"I have enjoyed every minute of my five years here", he said. "Whether I was reading stories of Canadian pioneers, or admiring the pictures of the school of Canadian painters who have given splendid artistic expression to their country, or wandering with trappers, policemen, or missionaries Down North, or even paddling my canoe on the Ottawa river or swooping—often bloody and bowed-down the ski slopes at Camp Fortune, I have always

sensed the virile body, the robust character, the lofty spirit of the entity called Canada."

Canada's war effort, Mr. MacDonald said, was, "a stupendous exertion for a community of less than 12,000,000 people". The food, shells, guns, tanks, planes and ships made by its workers, the financial burden borne by the taxpayers, the aircrews produced by the Air Training Plan, the efficiency, courage and self-sacrifice of the fighting men composed a glorious record.

In a tribute to Prime Minister King, Mr. MacDonald described him as "the world's most invincible statesman". Pre-eminent among those Canadians who share the credit for the enviable reputation which Canada is beginning to enjoy, he said, was the Prime Minister.

"I offer Mr. Mackenzie King my warm wishes that he may survive in office at least until June so that there is no doubt that he is Canada's longest Prime Minister."

Laughter broke out among the guests when Mr. MacDonald painted a fanciful picture of his life-to-be as Governor General of Malaya.

"You can think of me tossing down 'stingers' in the Sultan's Palace; of launching my sampan in the tropical dawn for a crocodile hunt on the Pogo-Pogo river."

Turning to Mr. King he said: "I should like, wherever I am, to be of some service to Canada. Prime Minister, why don't you make me Canadian High Commissioner to Malaya? You know I will have lots of influence with the Governor General there."

Praises Civil Servants.

Speaking of his life in Canada since 1940, Mr. MacDonald paid tribute to the Dominion's principal civil servants. "They remind me of Napoleon's marshals for they reproduce some of the attractive gifts of that other memorable group of competitive youngsters. Like them, they are forceful and brilliant as well as amazingly young."

As to Canada's problems, he specified the menace of any serious quarrel between the country's English-speaking and