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In 1937 he accepted the chairmanship of the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations which was appointed in that year. His was the guiding mind which planned the exhaustive enquiry which bears his name. The illness which compelled Chief Justice Rowell's retirement from the Chairmanship of the Commission was a national misfortune. It was more than deeply regretted by his colleagues and his fellow-citizens.

It was my privilege to enjoy Mr. Rowell's friendship for many years. I have known few men who had a greater capacity for hard work or a greater willingness to undertake it. He possessed a lucid and logical mind, and his speeches were the product of clear thinking, deep thought and a wide experience of men and books. To his great abilities were joined a sincere modesty, a rare gentleness and a great kindness of heart.