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ned either through education or environment to discharge the duties of prime minister than the Right Honorable Mackenzie King. Neither has any prime minister since confederation had as difficult a task to govern Canada with her vast separated country, diversified interests of the east, central and western provinces, the after effects of the great war, the heavy financial burdens, the unsettled conditions of the world, with her disturbed trade relations and last but not least the composition of the house of commons leaving the government without a working majority.

"Were I to describe the aims, ideals and ambitions of the prime minister, I would say that he is the friend of humanity, whatever his calling in life might be, be it that of the laborer, agriculturist, manufacturer, professional man or financier. He is a man who believes in all things human; there are abuses to be corrected; new horizons to be opened up, new forces to be developed. The principle of Liberalism is the essence of his nature. His great desire is for the success of his country, a united, happy and prosperous people, which is their natural birthright. His vision, energy and ambition are great. His desire is to serve his country well and faithfully. His watchword will be one of progress, always endeavoring to better the conditions of his fellow man, and making the attainments of life easier for a larger number."

PREMIER MACKENZIE KING.

"You will not be surprised that I find it difficult to discover words to express the thanks I feel so deeply in my heart for the great reception which has been given to my colleagues and myself this afternoon," said Premier Mackenzie King in opening his speech. "I appreciate more deeply than it is possible to say, the kindly recognition which has been given us, having in mind that the elements were against us. But with the prospect of heading addresses on the questions of the day, it is no small tribute to your generosity to feel that, the rain having passed, you are prepared to sit with the sun in your eyes or stand in that position and listen for two or three hours to the subjects which are being discussed. I thank you heartily for the kind way in which you received the remarks of my good friend Dr. Sinclair. May I, before

referring to Dr. Sinclair, say that I greatly appreciate the address which was presented by your mayor. I appreciate it all the more on behalf of my colleagues and myself in that I have reason to understand that the mayor has not as yet seen eye to eye with us on the political questions of the day. I appreciate it all the more, too, in that he was good enough to remain here this afternoon, when an attraction was drawing him strongly to Stratford. I do not know if he is here at this moment, but between Stratford and Woodstock, I am in Woodstock and proud to be here.

"It always gratifies anyone in public life to have the privilege of receiving from political opponents words as courteous and gracious as we have received this afternoon. I think public men, whether opponents or not, have the same aims, objects and ambitions. Those of us who are in public life, in the municipal field, or in the provincial or national fields, all have at heart the same purpose, that of serving the people to the best of our ability. Our views may differ as to our conception of government, but it is best to let the people hear these different views and let them judge for themselves. I thank the mayor and citizens for the welcome and reception they have given us, and I thank the warden of the county for his equally cordial and kindly welcome.

PROUD TO VISIT OXFORD.

"I am proud to have the opportunity of visiting Oxford," said the premier. "There is no more historic county, unless it be North York, in the history of Liberalism. I am delighted to see on the platform so many old friends and fellow members. I am glad to see Malcolm Schell, and delighted to observe that the years have made no difference in his eloquence and fire. I hope his voice and counsel may be heard for many years to come in the councils of the party and in the shaping of the Liberal policies for the government of the country. I am proud to see on the platform so many of my colleagues of the house of commons. I am glad also to see here Dr. McKay and Mr. Mayberry. One of the fine things about a political party is that no matter how many years go by, one's circle of acquaintances is enlarged. It is a delight to us young men to have before us the example of the older men, and to find that they continue to take such an interest in affairs that they are an inspiration to us all.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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