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Minister of
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Mines & Resources

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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
OTTAWA.

19th November, 1941.

Dear Mr. Crerar:

I would like to associate the Government and people of the Commonwealth of Australia with the homage which Canada is paying to one of her greatest sons, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on the occasion of the one-hundredth anniversary of his birth.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his life and work provided a shining example of a man who rose above considerations of race, creed and party, and identified himself with the aspirations of the nation as a whole. In his long career as a member of Parliament, as Leader of the Liberal Party and as Prime Minister of Canada, he well earned the admiration and devotion he received from both English and French speaking Canadians, and his harmonizing influence on the relations between Canadians of French and of Anglo-Saxon descent was unique.

Under Laurier's guidance Canada took great strides along the road to adult nationhood, and his conception of the British Empire as a group of free nations bound together by their common allegiance to the Crown, but each enjoying the fullest right to regulate its own affairs, has been realised in the British Commonwealth of Nations as it exists today.

At the same time Laurier had a real appreciation of the value of co-operation and solidarity between the nations of the British Empire, and these he did much to enhance. Indeed he came to represent to Britons everywhere the embodiment of those principles of freedom for

The Hon. T.A. Crerar,
Minister of Mines and Resources,
Ottawa.

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