

There are differences between the two ethnical groups; differences of genius, of origin, of character, of language. Those differences have existed from the very outset and will perpetuate themselves in the future; but the causes of those divergences should not be lost sight of and now, after the stress and storm of the awful and tragical war that we had just brought to a triumphant conclusion, if we wish to grapple with the problems of the future, we must set to the task of welding all the elements of our population into a united nation, as fellow-citizens and inhabitants of a country which needs all our efforts towards its upbuilding and its fashioning into a noble and great commonwealth. On this historic occasion, when we cross the threshold of our new home of the Parliament of Canada, let us make it our duty to dedicate ourselves anew to the service and welfare of our country; let us pledge ourselves ever to keep burning, on the altars of this national temple, the sacred fires, lit over half a century ago by those noble and distinguished men, who even in death are never silent and still speak to us and whose example of service and sacrifice are still our inspiration.

Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I have the privilege, on behalf of His Majesty's loyal Opposition, of seconding the motion which has just been moved by the right hon. the Acting Prime Minister (Sir George Foster).

The cable of greeting which has been read by you, Mr. Speaker, from His Majesty reminds us not only of the sovereignty which we share in common with all parts of the British Empire, but of the constant concern of members of the Royal Family for the well-being and prosperity of this Dominion, and of the many intimate associations of its Royal members with these halls of Parliament.

My Rt. hon. friend has spoken so feelingly and effectively of the attachment between His Majesty the King and the people of this Dominion that I shall refrain from attempting to add to what he has so eloquently said in this connection, beyond mentioning that hon. members on this side of the House share in equal measure the sentiments of loyalty and devotion to the person and office of His Majesty.

If more were needed to reveal the heart of the Canadian people, and, for that matter, the heart of the Royal Family, it would be found in the expressions of mutual

[Sir George Foster.]

affection everywhere evoked during the recent visit of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, and the memory of that visit at this time.

May I join my right hon. friend in giving expression to other sentiments which we experience in common on this historic occasion?

It is not more a source of regret to supporters of the Government than it is to hon. members of the Opposition that the right hon. the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden) is prevented, because of the impaired condition of his health, from being present at and participating in these opening ceremonies, certain as they are to live in the memories of all who are privileged to witness them. It is gratifying to us, as it will be to the people of Canada, to know that the change of scene and thought, and most of all, the freedom for a time from vast responsibilities, which the Prime Minister is at present enjoying, have not been without their beneficent effects; and that restoration of health, which we all hope may be speedy and complete, appears now to await him. Still, we regret his absence, and we miss his presence.

There is another presence which will also be missed by this House and by the country on this memorable occasion. I am sure every hon. member will deeply regret that the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who for fifteen years preceded the Prime Minister in that high and important office, and who for forty-four years was an honoured and greatly beloved member of this House, was not spared to witness the restoration of these Halls of Parliament in which his long life was given with such fidelity to his country's service. Especially on occasions of ceremony, such as this, do we miss his distinguished appearance, his chivalrous and courteous manner, and, most of all, his charm of utterance and ability to portray the significance of transpiring events toward which many of us stand as mute spectators.

But, Sir, whilst we miss these leaders of our political parties through the recent past—the one taken from us and the other spared to us—we are all glad, I am sure that, circumstances being what they are, the honour of being the first to welcome the Commons to their new home, and to speak the word which gives its appropriate setting to this occasion, should have fallen to one who is not only so eminently gifted in the art of expression, but who is also the oldest member of the King's Privy Council for Canada. May I extend to my