

THE SENATE

Friday, February 7, 1936.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Honourable members of the Senate, as the Senate has met to-day for the purpose of considering certain resolutions, I will call only the order of motions standing in the name of the Hon. Senator Dandurand.

ADDRESSES TO THEIR MAJESTIES

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND rose to move the following resolutions:

That a humble address be presented to His Majesty the King in the following words:

To The King's Most Excellent Majesty:

Most Gracious Sovereign:

We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled, humbly beg leave to express our deep sympathy with Your Majesty in the affliction and loss you have sustained by the death of the late King, Your Majesty's beloved father.

Your Majesty's sorrow is shared by the people of this Dominion, whose representatives we are. King George V, by his fidelity to duty, his public service, and his constant endeavour to advance the well-being and happiness of all classes, had greatly endeared himself to his Canadian subjects. We remember with gratitude his unremitting efforts to secure friendship and peace among the nations of the world. In common with all parts of the Empire, we shall ever deeply cherish his memory.

We welcome Your Majesty's accession to the Throne of your ancestors. We desire, in so doing, to express to you our loyalty and devotion. It is our firm conviction that Your Majesty will ever seek to promote the happiness and to protect the liberties of all your people. As members of the Parliament of Canada, we wish to assure Your Majesty that, in the discharge of these great responsibilities, it is our desire and determination to uphold and support Your Majesty to the utmost of our authority and wisdom.

That a message of condolence be sent to Her Majesty Queen Mary in the following words:

Your Majesty:

We, the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled, respectfully beg leave to tender to Your Majesty our heartfelt sympathy in your great sorrow and bereavement. We share Your Majesty's grief and loss in the passing of our late Sovereign, King George V, who was greatly beloved by all his subjects.

We pray that, at this time, Your Majesty may be comforted and sustained by the remembrance of what your loving companionship meant to the late King throughout his life and reign, by memories of service shared, and by the sympathy and love that everywhere surrounds Your Majesty in your great sorrow.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

He said: Honourable members of the Senate, since the demise of His Majesty George V, in British lands and on foreign soil, from every tribune and pulpit, from all men who wield the pen, from the mighty and the lowly, has arisen a concert of encomiums such as history has seldom recorded. The beauty of this eulogy was in its unanimity. To whom was it addressed? To a mighty warrior? To a conquering hero? To a transcendent genius, who had beneficently directed the fortunes of a nation? No. This applauding world was celebrating the virtues of a King who reigned but did not govern, whose sense of duty and whose conscience were his sole guide, and whose life was a notable example to the nation and to the Commonwealth.

It has been observed that the royal influence has increased with the diminution of the executive authority of the King. George V was a model constitutional monarch. The question has often been asked: what can be the influence of the King in his Council? His chief adviser alone can give the answer, since the King does not preside over the Council. If he is endowed with true qualities of heart and mind—detached, as he is, from party bias and electoral considerations—he can discreetly express an opinion that is apt to carry weight with his Prime Minister.

Mr. Baldwin, who was so near the Throne, can best testify on behalf of His Majesty. His words deserve to be enshrined in our parliamentary records. Said Mr. Baldwin, on the evening of His Majesty's death:

King George, it is true, inherited his position on the Throne, but he won his own way to the hearts of his people. Behind the pomp and pageantry incidental to his great position, he laboured night and day in that high station to which God had called him. The doing of his duty to the utmost of his ability was the guiding principle of his life. Great power, which corrupts weak natures, ennobled our King's character and made him subdue passion and will and energy to his duty to his country. He brought the disposition that is lovely in private life into the service and the conduct of the Commonwealth, and not only in virtue of his office, but in virtue of his person, was he the first gentleman of the land. As the knowledge of the King's complete dedication to duty grew and spread as his reign proceeded, so did the respect of his people turn into reverence, and reverence into love.

What a splendid tribute from one who was in daily contact with our Sovereign!

We all recall how George V, in his Christmas message, emphasized his great desire for peace, and rejoiced that our own family of peoples is at peace within itself and united in one desire to be at peace with all other nations.