

The Address—Mr. Slaght

in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both houses of parliament.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the speech from the throne this year, as we all should expect, contains the following special references in its opening: first, to the loss our empire has sustained in the death of His Majesty King George V, an expression of sympathy to our young king, to Queen Mary and all the royal family, and an expression of our loyalty and devotion to King Edward VIII.

On Friday last the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) seconded by the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) in very simple and touching addresses, expressed for us the thoughts that were in our hearts, therefore my task on this occasion, in reference to that portion of the speech from the throne, will be limited indeed. May I recall and quote to you, from among the many beautiful expressions that have come from public men throughout the empire, just two lines which seemed to me the most impressive in that address delivered by the British Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, who said:

King George, it is true, inherited his position on the throne—he won his own way to the hearts of his people.

If one might be permitted, sir, to speculate as to which of his varied activities His late Majesty was most happy to perform, I would suggest it was not when he wore the crown and the ceremonial robes of office but rather when he went in his own simple, human way to the hospitals of the motherland and, with a friendly arm around their shoulders, cheered his wounded men and those who were unfortunate enough to be disabled in the war. I think another duty which he and the gracious queen delighted to perform was when they went to those functions at which little children gathered. There, I believe and feel, he was often most happy in the performance of his public duties. If I might revert to schoolboy days I should like to quote you something that comes to my mind from the fourth reader of those days; I should like to give you four lines which seem to me perhaps better than any we could find to exemplify the two outstanding traits of our late beloved king. They are as follows:

For whatever men say in their blindness
And in spite of the fancies of youth
There is nothing so kingly as kindness
And nothing so royal as truth.

To our new and beloved King Edward VIII we of this house affirm our loyal allegiance, and in the storm of controversy and the heat

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of debate throughout this eighteenth parliament I think we cannot do better than always remember those lines, which have been left as an example to us, that there is nothing so kingly as kindness and nothing so royal as truth.

Before I proceed, Mr. Speaker, to discuss the speech, may I extend to you my congratulations upon your election to the office of Speaker of the House of Commons. I feel that I can do this with double sincerity because for some years past I have enjoyed the privilege of your personal friendship. I feel also that your long experience in this house and your knowledge gained from participation in the debates eminently fit you to uphold the traditions which we heard so well expressed last week and to carry out with fairness and impartiality the duties of the high office to which you have been called. I desire to express to you, sir, the hope that for many years to come you may preside over the deliberations of this house and continue, as you have begun, to perform in a fine and noble way the duties that fall to your office.

I understand that it is the privilege of the member performing my task to have a word to say about his own constituency. May I first offer to the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and to his cabinet, on behalf of my constituents of Parry Sound, their most sincere thanks for the honour you have done them in selecting me to move the address. The Parry Sound district which I have the honour to represent, I need scarcely tell you, is one of the most important districts in the Dominion of Canada. My people are engaged in the basic industries of agriculture, cattle raising, fishing and lumbering, and the district, which as you perhaps all know is some six thousand square miles in area, is situate on Georgian bay, with one hundred miles of waterfront, the beauty and scenic grandeur of which cannot be surpassed. The district is dotted with a myriad of small and sparkling lakes, with four great rivers which empty into Georgian bay. Because of the industries I have mentioned, Mr. Speaker, my district of Parry Sound will be particularly and specially benefited by the cattle and lumber provisions of the treaty which will be submitted to this house shortly and as to which I shall have a word to say later on.

May I say also, Mr. Speaker, that because of its scenic grandeur and its wonderful fishing and hunting my district enjoys a great influx of tourists from both Canada and the United States. Not only are we blessed by the provisions of the new treaty; our blessings in Parry Sound do not come singly.