

of the whole ceremonial and their introduction into the Coronation will itself be historic. To publish in advance would somewhat diminish the dramatic values. It is also for consideration whether advance publicity might not precipitate in advance unfortunate discussions by constitutional pundits, cranks and malcontents.

6. It might therefore be considered, if a Canadian parliamentary Address is to be moved, whether it might be in a very brief form—along the lines of the U.K. Commons Address at King George V's Jubilee shown in paragraph 3 above—leaving it to the Prime Minister to prepare a form of words which he would use in presenting the Address at the Coronation. The alternative which would avoid the complications noted would be a Government Address. In such a case the accompanying draft¹ could be slightly recast.

As to Content of the Address

7. Whatever procedure and form are adopted, the dominant note of the Canadian words should, it is submitted, accent the central note of the Coronation. Perhaps it cannot be said that the ceremony has any strict legal or constitutional significance (at all events outside whatever significance it may have in canon law for the Church of England); for it would be hard to point to any legal process or constitutional safeguard that would really be invalidated or weakened if the ceremony were never held. But at its central point—the taking of the Oath—the Coronation Oath Act of 1688 does compel the new Sovereign to declare solemnly the sense in which he accepts the Crown. His Oath to govern the peoples according to law and custom, and to cause law and justice, in mercy, to be executed in all his judgments, is a declaration that reveals, in a few simple words, the essence of our political conceptions and system of democratic governance. This represents the ancient and traditional aspect for our internal, home affairs. Besides this, there is now the other, vital, concentric, sense of the Oath: the naming of Canada (as well as the others) individually. So that the King's Oath now is to govern the people of Canada according to their laws and customs. This is a solemn reaffirmation of what has come about in recent times; it recognises that the relationships of the several peoples, one with another as well as with other nations, have now become interpenetrated by the old principles of freedom and the rule of law; it, too, in simple fashion goes to the essence of our political faith and structure within the group of free, equal, autonomous states composing the British Commonwealth of Nations.

8. This being the character of the King's public admission of the sense in which he holds the legal title to the Crown in trust for the peoples, it seems clear that those responsible to the people of Canada must, in their turn, assert publicly and clearly though briefly the principles and conditions upon which they tender homage and support on behalf of the people. This assertion is the more called for in that this is the first occasion for any

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