

Revised text of Prime Minister King's Introduction - (pp.4-5)

had a fine record of military service. He has been a member of the Labour Party of Britain for nearly forty years, and its leader for more than ten years. Though still with the promise of many years before him, he has already lived to see fulfilment of some of the great purposes of his life.

Few men have had a comparable political career. Mr. Attlee has been a member of the Parliament of the United Kingdom for twenty-three years. During that time he has held many high offices of state which he administered with rare ability and the utmost fidelity. As Leader of the Opposition at the greatest crisis of the war, he joined in forming the Coalition. During the period of the Coalition he held after 1942 the office of Deputy Prime Minister. He combined this difficult position with the continued leadership of his party. He is today head of the administration and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. This is a record of personal achievement, political success and public service which will ever hold an exceptionally high and honourable place in the history of British statesmanship.

It has fallen to the lot of few, if any, statesmen to be faced with greater problems than those by which Mr. Attlee is faced today. In the discharge of his grave responsibilities, I should like to assure the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of the understanding and co-operation of the government of Canada. I am speaking, I know, for all Canadians when I ask Mr. Attlee to take back to the people of Britain the renewed expression of our admiration and affection. With this expression of admiration and affection, I ask him also to carry back the assurance that the people of Canada are united in their resolve to do all they can to help Britain in meeting the pressing needs of her people. We fully realize not only the magnitude of their sacrifice, but also our own country's interest in the welfare and prosperity of Britain, and indeed, of all nations.

I have much pleasure in calling upon the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the Right Honourable Clement Attlee.