

PUBLICATION.....

DATE.....

his confident hope that by that he will preserve the unity of this country and the whole Empire and avoid those factious differences that might so easily have arisen.

"These last days have been days of great strain. It was a great comfort to me, and I hope it will be to the House, when I was assured, before I left him Tuesday night, by that intimate circle that was with him at the Fort that evening, that I had left nothing undone that I could have done to move him from the decision at which he had arrived.

Edward's Own Decision.

"While there is not a soul among us who will not regret this from the bottom of his heart, there is not a soul here today that wants to judge.

"We are not the judges. His Majesty has announced his decision.

"He has told us what he wants us to do, and I think we must close our ranks.

"At a later stage this evening I shall ask leave to bring in the necessary bill so it may be read for the first time, printed, and made available to the members.

House Meets Tomorrow.

"The House will meet tomorrow at the usual time, 11 o'clock, when we shall take the second reading and the remaining stages of the bill. It is very important it should be passed into law tomorrow and I shall put on the order paper tomorrow a motion to take the private members' time and suspend the four o'clock rule.

"Now I have only two other things to say. The House will forgive me for saying now what I should have said a few minutes ago. I have told the House that yesterday morning when the Cabinet received the King's final definite announcement, officially they passed a minute, and in accordance with it I sent a message to His Majesty, which he has been good enough to allow me to read.

(Baldwin then read the message sent to the King from the Cabinet and the King's reply, both of which had already been read in the House of Lords.)

"My last words on that subject are that I am convinced that where I failed no one could have succeeded. Those who know His Majesty best would know what that means.

Watched by World.

"This House today is a theatre that is being watched by the whole world and let us conduct ourselves with that dignity that His Majesty himself has shown in this hour of his trial. And, whatever be our regret at the contents of the message, let us fulfill his wishes to do what he asks and do it with speed and let no word be spoken today that the speaker or utterer of that word may regret in days to come.

"Let no word be spoken that causes pain to any soul, and let us not forget today the revered, beloved figure, Queen Mary. Think what all this time has meant to her, and think of her when we have to speak, as speak we must during this debate.

"We have after all, as guardians of democracy in this little island, to see that we do our work to maintain the integrity of Monarchy, that Monarchy which, as I said at the beginning of my speech, is now the sole link of the whole Empire and guardian of our freedom. Let us look forward and remember our country and the trust reposed by our country in this, the House of Commons,

and let us rally behind the new King. Let us rally behind him and help him.

"Whatever the country may have suffered by what we are passing through may soon be repaired and we may take a hand again in trying to make this country a better country for all the people in it."

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 169, pages C120194-C120809)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA