

*Address of Right Hon. Mr. Attlee*

close cooperation between nations of the British commonwealth and the United States, which meant so much to the preservation of the world's freedom at a time of war, will be found the surest guarantee of world security in these post-war years.

I need not remind hon. members of the many causes with which, over the years, Mr. Attlee's life has been identified, or how outstanding are the contributions he has made to the public life of our day. He has always been an earnest student of social and industrial problems, imbued with an abiding determination to work increasingly for human welfare and social progress. As a soldier in the first great war he 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 to-day 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 place in the history of British statesmanship.

It has fallen to the lot of few, if any, statesmen to be faced with as great problems as those by which Mr. Attlee is faced to-day. He carries, I believe, a greater burden of responsibility than the head of any other government in the world to-day. In the discharge of his grave responsibilities, I should like to assure the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of the understanding and cooperation 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 sacri-

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

fice, but also our own country's interest in the welfare and prosperity of Britain, and indeed, in that of all nations.

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

Right Hon. CLEMENT R. ATTLEE (Prime Minister of the United Kingdom): Mr. Speaker, members of the Senate; Mr. Speaker, members of the House of Commons: I should like first of all to say how deeply I was touched by the kind reception which you have given me. I should like to thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, for your kind words. I take this as a tribute to the people of the United Kingdom whom I am representing to-day.

It is a great pleasure to me to be here in Ottawa again. It has been my privilege to visit Canada four times in the last five years. When I was last here I was Deputy Prime Minister in Mr. Churchill's government, a post which I held until a few months ago. Now, by a process well understood by all parliamentarians, there has been a change of administration and I come before you as Prime Minister. I say that this is well understood by all of us, but the methods that are natural to democracies are not always understood in other parts of the world.

You will remember that we had a general election in Britain, and I then accompanied Mr. Churchill to Potsdam while the ballot boxes remained locked-up and the votes from the men overseas were coming in. Some of our friends were surprised that immediately following a vigorous electoral contest Mr. Churchill and I could cooperate; some were even astonished that we showed no agitation while our political destinies remained hidden for three weeks. When we returned to London and the result of the ballot caused me to become Prime Minister, I went back to Potsdam with precisely the same civil servants as had accompanied Mr. Churchill. It was a striking example of how in countries where the rule of law obtains, we can effect change peaceably. It was also an illustration of the fact that political differences do not prevent cooperation between opponents where the interests of the country are at stake.

In London we have been delighted to welcome in recent years representatives of all your parties, including my friend Mr. Bracken the leader of the opposition, and Mr. Coldwell the leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation; and only a week or two ago we had the pleasure of receiving your Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, on his third visit since the war began. As the junior