

the profound impression which his words had made, not only upon those who heard them, but upon the people of Canada. I spoke also of the many memories we cherished of his own and Mrs. Baldwin's visits to Canada. I ventured, however, in what I said, to go beyond Canada, and to express a word on behalf of all the self-governing Dominions. I might easily have said what I did not behalf of the Commonwealth as a whole, as I should like to do, and shall do, to-night.

#### Confidence of the Dominions

Considerable as have been the contributions made by more than one of the Prime Ministers, and not a few of the statesmen of this Old Land, towards the development of the British Commonwealth, I believe there is not a man in public life to-day who possesses, in equal measure with Mr. Baldwin, an understanding of the Dominions, and of considerations of which they have to take account, in their relations to each other and to the United Kingdom, and who enjoys their confidence in so complete a measure. What I have just said, more particularly on behalf of Canada, will be echoed, I know, by my colleagues from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, on whose behalf, as well as on that of Canada, I have the honour of speaking to-night, and will, I believe, be confirmed, as respects other parts of the Commonwealth, by the speakers who are to follow me in responding to this toast.

#### Guiding the Destinies of the Empire

And this leads me to say one further word, on behalf of us all, to Mr. Baldwin, on the eve of his retirement from office. We should be unhappy, indeed, and conscious of great loss, did his relinquishment of the office of Prime Minister mean Mr. Baldwin's retirement from public life. Fortunately it means nothing of the kind. Rather it gives reason to hope that his years of public service may be greatly prolonged. Mr. Baldwin can hardly look forward to years freed of anxiety. I doubt if serenity is to be found anywhere in the world to-day, especially by those who have to do with public affairs. Of this I am sure, however, that, freed from the trammels of office, Mr. Baldwin will be able to bring to bear upon the problems of industrial and international relations, to which his life has been so singularly devoted, an outlook as sagacious as it is democratic, and an experience unequalled by any of the great men of our times. "The last of life, for which the first was made"—such, we believe, is the character of