

occasion. I am sure every hon. member will deeply regret that the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who for fifteen years preceded the Prime Minister in that high and important office, and who for forty-four years was an honoured and greatly beloved member of this House, was not spared to witness the restoration of these Halls of Parliament in which his long life was given with such fidelity to his country's service. Especially on occasions of ceremony, such as this, do we miss his distinguished appearance, his chivalrous and courteous manner, and, most of all, his charm of utterance and ability to portray the significance of transpiring events toward which many of us stand as mute spectators.

But, Sir, whilst we miss these leaders of our political parties through the recent past - the one taken from us and the other spared to us - we are all glad, I am sure, that, circumstances being what they are, the honour of being the first to welcome the Commons to their new home, and to speak the word which gives its appropriate setting to this occasion, should have fallen to one who is not only so eminently gifted in the art of expression, but who is also the oldest member of the King's Privy Council for Canada. May I extend to my right hon. friend the congratulations of hon. members of this side of the House,

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