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There is no doubt but that it was the character and conduct of His Majesty throughout these testing times that led to the strengthening of the monarchy with us at the very time that it was breaking down elsewhere. Since the war, thrones throughout Europe have toppled and the established order has been uprooted. The throne of His Majesty has remained secure and has in fact become more firmly based. The crown for us is the symbol not of despotism but of constitutional liberty and ordered progress; not of autocratic empire but of the voluntary union of free states.

Constitutional relations within the empire have changed much since the accession of His Majesty. The relation of the dominions and the United Kingdom is no longer that of colony to mother country, but of self-governing nations freely associated with each other. This development, however, far from weakening the position of the crown has only served to strengthen it. The throne now more definitely than ever before binds us to one another and to our past. From whatever part of the empire we may come, we all claim kinship through our common allegiance to His Majesty the King.

His Majesty's reign has been eventful for more developments than the war and the constitutional evolution of the British commonwealth of nations. I shall not attempt to pass in review the events of these crowded twenty-five years, but I think I am safe in saying that there has never been a more dynamic, a more significant, a more difficult quarter century since recorded history began. In dealing with the baffling problems caused by these rapid social and political changes, His Majesty's ministers had at all times the benefit of His Majesty's ripe judgment, long experience and wise advice.

Many years ago a wise commentator on the British constitution, Walter Bagehot, stated "a sovereign has, under a constitutional monarchy such as ours, three rights—the right to be consulted, the right to encourage, the right to warn. And a king of great sense and sagacity would want no others—perhaps such powers as these are what a wise man would most seek to exercise and least fear to possess."

It is in the exercise of these powers that our king has played and continues to play his part in guiding the destinies of this great array of peoples who make up the British empire.

I do not feel that I need say any more. Inadequate as my words have been, they are the sincere expression of what I know animates every member of this house and

every citizen of this country; loyal and affectionate devotion to His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen.

I therefore move, seconded by Mr. Mackenzie King:

That an humble address be voted to His Majesty the King in the following words:—

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty:
Most Gracious Sovereign:

We, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, . . . the House of Commons of Canada in parliament assembled, beg to offer our sincere congratulations on the happy completion of the twenty-fifth year of your illustrious reign.

The eventful years which have passed since Your Majesty's accession to the throne have witnessed great and significant changes in economic, social and political conditions that have constantly demanded the exercise of the highest qualities of courage and of leadership. During these years important and definite developments in the constitutional relations between the several parts of Your Majesty's dominions have more firmly established that unity of which their common allegiance to the crown is the symbol and inspiration. We rejoice that each year has been marked by an increasing appreciation of Your Majesty's inspiring example of conscientious devotion to duty and of unselfish labour for the welfare of your people. Your Majesty will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of your accession enjoying the unreserved respect and the loyal affection of the people in all parts of your dominions, which is a striking demonstration of the righteousness and wisdom which Your Majesty has exhibited both in war and in peace through years of unexampled difficulty.

We ask that our loyal and respectful congratulations may be accepted by Her Gracious Majesty the Queen whose untiring interest in every movement for the relief of distress and suffering and for the welfare of humanity has given her a secure place in the affections of the people of Canada. We rejoice that the queen will share the demonstration of loyalty and devotion which will be shown to Your Majesty on this memorable anniversary.

From time to time during Your Majesty's reign the people of Canada have enjoyed the honour of welcoming to this dominion His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal family, whose visits have not only deepened the loyal devotion of the people of Canada to Your Majesty but have enhanced their appreciation of the interest which is always taken by the members of the Royal family in all that pertains to the progress and welfare of this dominion.

We trust that we may continue for many years to enjoy the benefit of your gracious and peaceful rule. Our earnest prayer is that He who is the Ruler of all nations and the King of Kings may uphold, direct and preserve Your Majesty in health, in happiness, and in the affectionate loyalty of your people.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Leader of the Opposition): In rising to second the motion which has just been made by the right hon. the acting leader of the house (Sir George Perley), may I say immedi-