

*The Address—Mr. Mackenzie King*

is not, any more than is His Majesty the King in Great Britain, an agent of the government or a representative of the government or any department of the government of Great Britain. The Governor General in a self-governing dominion such as Canada, represents His Majesty the King alone. From now on there can be no question as to his not representing the government or any department of the government of Great Britain.

As to the matter of the selection of Governor General I am not wholly familiar with the methods that have been adopted heretofore. I am inclined to believe that what the leader of the opposition (Mr. Guthrie) surmised this afternoon, namely that the government of Great Britain, before making an appointment, conferred with the Prime Minister of the day either by written or oral communication and made the appointment only after such conference, is the method that has been followed, at least in recent years. Speaking of what took place with respect to the appointment of the present Governor General, I do not think I am betraying any secret which I should not when I say that the British Prime Minister did confer with me as Prime Minister of Canada with respect to that particular appointment and that the distinguished gentleman who is at the present time filling the position of Governor General was heartily approved of by myself in correspondence with the Prime Minister of Great Britain before the appointment was made.

I do not think the British government would, for one moment, contemplate recommending the appointment of a Governor General to Canada who was not persona grata to the ministry in office in Canada at the time of the appointment. It will, I think, be time enough to raise the question as to whether we are to draw hard and fast lines between the British government and our own in the matter of the ultimate selection of a Governor General when any difference threatens between the British government and our own over the matter of an appointment. I have not the least doubt that the government of Great Britain would not think of suggesting the appointment and, in virtue of the statement that is here laid down so emphatically, will not hereafter attempt to recommend the appointment of a Governor General to this Dominion without the approval of the Prime Minister—and that I take it means the cabinet—of this country before the appointment is made.

I would like now to say a word with reference to the celebration of the diamond

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jubilee of confederation and to join my words to those of hon. members who have already spoken in saying what a source of pleasure and pride as well as an honour it will be to us all to have with us in the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of our Dominion His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. May I say that from conversations I was privileged to have with His Royal Highness during the course of my recent visit to England I know he is looking forward with intense pleasure to being in Canada next year, and that nothing except wholly unforeseen circumstances which would make his visit impossible will prevent him from being with us during the celebration. It goes without saying that His Royal Highness will receive a right royal welcome when he comes back to our Dominion.

May I say, too, that the welcome which will be extended to the Prime Minister of Great Britain will be as hearty as the citizens of this Dominion can give to anyone? As my hon. friend said this afternoon it will be the first occasion when a Prime Minister of Great Britain in office has visited one of the great dominions. I am sure that all who have had the pleasure of meeting the Right Hon. Mr. Baldwin and of knowing him will say that it will be their ardent hope and wish that when the time comes he may find it possible to be one of our guests at the celebration of the diamond jubilee.

In this connection I believe it will be the wish of the people of this Dominion that an invitation should also be extended by the government to the Prime Ministers of the other self-governing dominions. As all of them were present recently at the Imperial conference and have been absent from their countries for a considerable period, they may find it difficult to be present; but it will be our hope that if they themselves should be prevented from coming it will be found possible for ministers of their governments and possibly parliamentary delegations from their countries as well to attend. I believe that occasions such as these afford the public men of the different parts of the British Empire the best kind of opportunity of meeting together and coming to understand more fully the great aims, purposes and ideals which they hold in common. Only good, I am sure, can come from any event which will help to bring together from the different quarters of the globe those who are citizens of the countries comprising the great empire to which we belong.