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of one who can say 'Civis Britannicus sum'. (A British Subject am I).

In 1908, the year in which our illustrious Prime Minister, The Right Honourable William Lyon Mackenzie King, entered the House of Commons; and The Right Honourable Ernest Lapointe began to blossom into that brilliant statesman which he afterwards became before his lamentable death; my political life ended.

During the next thirty years my activities in business gave me considerable intimacy with the industrial developments in this Province, particularly at Shawinigan Falls on the St. Maurice River, and at Arvida on the Saguenay River.

For ten of those years, as President of The Canada Life Assurance Company, many thousands of the lives of your good citizens were of much interest to me.

In February 1941 our Prime Minister invited me to accept the highly esteemed but unsought honour of the somewhat strenuous, onerous and responsible position of Canadian Minister at Washington. Having declined it in peacetime, it was felt that wartime was different, so I was advised and believed that it was my duty to accept. My best endeavours have been exerted to fulfill the duties connected with it.

Believe me, however, the job clings to me -- not me to it.

This outline is simply to bring home the fact that this speaker has been intimately associated with the affairs -- business, financial and political -- of this Province, as well as of his native Province, and the other Provinces of this country, for more than half a century.

Such experience as he has gained has been placed at the disposal of his country with all the fervor and strength that he possesses.

As before intimated, my information is that you desire me to speak of Canada's relations with other countries.

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