

I learned with pleasure of the intended visit to Canada of their majesties in May. They come from the heart of empire, and as the heads of the British commonwealth of nations, their visit marks the first time our king has ever visited Canada. He comes not as the King of England, but rather as the King of Canada, and brings as the Queen of Canada his good wife, Queen Elizabeth. This visit indicates an advancement and a further development in the hearts and minds of people throughout the empire.

I should be remiss in my duty to-night if I did not recall the vision of that grand old man who was the leader of the Liberal party and who asked everyone who supported him to follow his "white plume." It was he who first laid down the doctrine of our being children in our mother's house, but mistress of our own. Not only was that visualized by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but it has become an established fact. By the statute of Westminster Canada is a separate entity within the empire, controlling her own affairs. Every act which is in conflict with the laws of Canada or with the Colonial Laws Validity Act must go by the board. Only one act does not come under the jurisdiction of the parliament of Canada, namely the British North America Act. At another time I shall deal with that matter, but for the present I must hurry on.

I know the welcome will be royal, and I know it will be wholehearted. I believe the policy adopted by the government of having their majesties meet the people, rather than having formal receptions and social functions, is the best one to follow. In that way the royal couple may feel the human touch of the individual, the poor man or the poor woman who will say, "I have seen their majesties, my king and queen." The Prime Minister and his government are to be congratulated upon the strong democratic stand they have taken, a stand which reflected the wish of their majesties.

It is gratifying to learn that while in Canada their majesties intend to visit the great republic to the south of us, and while there that they will be the royal guests of the President and the first lady of the United States. They will also have an opportunity of having a bird's-eye view of that country with its 130,000,000 people, and to tie more closely the bond which already exists between the United States and the motherland. The British empire was well blessed when, during the period of the war, between 1914 and 1918, a man of outstanding ability, a man of vision and of knowledge, was President of the United States. I refer to the late Woodrow Wilson. The United States is fortunate in having as its

[Mr. Finn.]

President to-day Mr. Roosevelt, who is a liberal both in essence and in action. He stands, as we do in Canada, for the highest form of democracy. The influence which he wields will be a tremendous factor in the destinies of those democracies that still remain in the world.

I would be remiss in my duty if I did not in a kindly way express my genuine appreciation of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning). I am glad to see he is able again to resume his seat and carry on the onerous duties of his department. With the help which I am sure his colleagues and every other hon. member irrespective of party will be ready to give him, I feel he will be soon restored to the health he formerly enjoyed. I know he will prove to be an outstanding figure in the shaping of the destiny of Canada.

I come now to an hon. gentleman with whom I have had the honour of sitting in this house, although on opposite sides. Like myself he has grown a bit older and a bit grayer. I refer to the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Manion). It was no mean honour that was conferred upon him by the great Conservative party. He comes to this house well equipped with knowledge, vision, judgment and fairness. I believe that as he passes stage by stage to duties of greater importance he will prove himself equal to the task. I know he will add lustre to the list of his predecessors.

A moment ago I spoke of those who had passed to the great beyond. I realize with a feeling of deep sorrow that the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, a former prime minister of Canada and the late leader of the Conservative party, is not with us to-day. He is on the ocean journeying toward the heart of empire. I felt it not only my duty, but an honour and a pleasure to go to Halifax for the purpose of attending a luncheon given in his honour. I consider myself his personal friend. As representing the constituency of Halifax, I considered that I should see him depart through the eastern gateway of Canada. He was a Nova Scotian as well as a New Brunswicker. In the early days there was no such name as New Brunswick; it was Acadia, it was Nova Scotia.

Mr. BROOKS: There was in his day.

Mr. FINN: Then I am doubly glad. I have not traced history as closely as my hon. friend, and I want to congratulate him upon the fact that he is tracing me very closely in my remarks tonight. Mr. Bennett brought to this house great ability and great knowledge. He was forceful, powerful, able, adroit and fair. All men in public life at one time or