

English kings for 850 years—the young Queen scattered symbolic earth on the coffin as it was lowered into the crypt, and the king was laid to rest amid the tombs of his fathers. The life and times of George VI were English history, whose unending scroll will now record the story of Queen Elizabeth II.

The next day, the half-staffed flags were run up to full staff, and while custom decrees a period of mourning, the thoughts of all turned from the past to the future.

It is true to say that in these trying times in world affairs, all the peoples of the Commonwealth, and indeed of the world itself, have much to hope for. But in no part of the Commonwealth are minds of men turned as eagerly in search of a portent of better times as in the United Kingdom—those sea-girt islands of the North Atlantic.

It is difficult for us who live in this blessed land, so far removed from the direct and indirect effects of war, to realize the flood of emotions let loose by the accession of a queen to the throne, for another of those rare occasions in the long history of Britain. With ourselves, the people of the United Kingdom welcomed the relief that accompanied the end of hostilities in 1945. But their elation at the relief from the terror that rained from the skies was quickly followed by the grim realization that such had been their sacrifice of blood and treasure that years must elapse as they slowly and steadily climbed back to normal times. Then, as happier times seemed almost within reach, came Korea and the realization that again the hands of the economic clock were to be pushed back, perhaps for the lifetime of most of those then living. What more natural for a people steeped in the tradition of a long and glorious past than to let their minds turn back to the reign of the first Elizabeth, when danger of invasion was ended for generations to come, and to the times of Victoria, who ascended the throne during a period of great economic distress, but during whose reign their developed a period of fabulous growth and development of everything that contributes to the welfare and happiness of mankind. Surely it is easy to realise the readiness of those who are searching the skies for a sign, to hail the accession to the throne of Elizabeth II as a portent of happier times.

Apart altogether from this hope, there is the additional factor that in the person of our new sovereign there is much to give promise that she will worthily follow the long line of her distinguished predecessors. Schooled in the tradition of royalty, to the high office she has assumed, she brings in abundant degree all of those characteristics

that endeared her late father to his subjects. That she is destined to exercise a profound influence upon all her subjects in the Commonwealth, we who have so recently seen her will be the first to agree. We will not soon forget the stirring pledge she made on her twenty-first birthday, when she said: "I declare before you all that my whole life shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great Imperial family, to which we all belong." To the Accession Council she affirmed that she would always work, as her father did throughout his reign, to uphold constitutional government and advance the happiness and prosperity of her peoples. These are the words of one fully conscious not merely of her destiny, but of the great and heavy responsibilities accompanying it.

But who can tell what influence for good she may be able to exercise far beyond the borders of the Commonwealth? No one could fail to be impressed by the reception she received from the peoples of the great republic to the south, during her all-too-brief visit there. The spontaneous and genuine kindness of her reception by a people, the majority of whom are kinsmen of her own people, reminds one of the exclamation of the American poet Whittier in reference to Queen Victoria: "We bow the heart, if not the knee, to England's Queen; God bless her."

It is not given to us to be able to peer very far into the future, but we can express to Her Majesty our loyalty and devotion, and assure her that it is our desire and determination to uphold her and support her to the utmost of our authority and wisdom, and pray that Divine Providence will sustain her in the discharge of her great responsibilities.

Perhaps we too in this portion of the Commonwealth may be pardoned if we as well hope that the accession to the throne of Elizabeth II is a sign that in due course swords will be beaten into ploughshares and the rivalry of nations will be confined to their efforts in raising the standard of welfare and happiness of their respective peoples. Pray God it may be so!

And so we join with the heralds of the past in proclaiming "The King is dead! Long live the Queen!"

**Hon. W. M. Aseltine:** My remarks, honourable senators, will be brief. The leader of the government has given us a very interesting resumé of what took place during the reign of our late King; and with the sentiments he has expressed this evening I think all members of the Senate entirely agree.

These two motions, the first being an address of sympathy with and of loyalty to