

The late King George VI

manner to what we hope will be a solution of the difficulties in that part of the world, is a great tribute to the power of the decent things for which our monarchy stands.

As we think of the king our sorrow goes out to the members of his family. We all join with the Prime Minister in what he has said about our sympathy for all the members of the royal family.

I think perhaps three women are particularly in our minds today. One of the most moving pictures that have ever been taken is a picture which all of us saw of three women in black, a mother mourning for her greatly beloved son, a wife for the husband to whom she was devoted, and a daughter for the father she adored, whose life had at all times been her guide and inspiration. Those three women are very much in the heart and mind of every Canadian today. Year by year the royal family has been brought closer to us by just such simple expressions of humanity as that conveyed in the picture to which I have referred. The radio, moving pictures and television now join the press in bringing them constantly before us and the people of the world.

It is in itself a great tribute to our royal family that under the intense glare of such publicity they have won more and more devotion day by day from those they serve. Never at any time has this ancient monarchy stood as high in our esteem and that of the world as it does today. These are dark days for Britain. These are trying days through which her people are passing. This is not however the first time they have seen dark days and have faced difficulties. More than a century ago a great American made a famous speech in Manchester at a time when the situation in Britain seemed as dark and as grave as it does today, and perhaps more forbidding. For that very reason I should like to recall the words spoken at that time by Ralph Waldo Emerson. This is what he said:

And so, gentlemen, I feel in regard to this aged England, with the possessions, honours and trophies, and also with the infirmities of a thousand years gathering around her, irretrievably committed as she is now to many old customs which cannot be suddenly changed; pressed upon by the transitions of trade and new and all incalculable modes, fabrics, arts, machines and competing populations—I see her not dispirited, not weak, but remembering that she has seen dark days before—indeed with a kind of instinct that she sees a little better in a cloudy day, and that in storm of battle and calamity she has a secret vigour and a pulse like a cannon. I see her in her old age, not decrepit, but young and still daring to believe in her power of endurance and expansion.

These prophetic words spoken more than a hundred years ago were amply justified in the years that followed. Britain saw great

[Mr. Drew.]

expansion, wider trade, greater prosperity emerge from that darkness and she became the centre of a great fellowship of nations of which we are proud to be a member. Now we are entering a new era. Each one of us recalls that for some reason, whatever that reason may be, the reigns of the queens within this commonwealth of ours have at all times seemed to be periods of advancement, expansion and increasing strength. Now we are entering the new Elizabethan era, and perhaps our hopes are raised by the fact that one of the greatest periods of expansion in the past was that in which another Elizabeth was the monarch at a time when men and women of great spirit went out into the world and gathered new opportunities, new trade and new wealth.

The Prime Minister quoted the words of the late king in which he said, "Every one of us can be a pioneer". That is the challenge to each one of us today who expresses his loyalty to Queen Elizabeth II, to be pioneers in this great new period of adventure, a period of adventure in which perhaps we shall not sail the seas as did the adventurers of old but a period of adventure when the greatest challenge of all is for men and women of good will throughout the commonwealth and throughout the world to find new ways of understanding each other and of strengthening the foundations of peace.

This commonwealth of ours, as we all know, embraces men and women of every race, colour, creed and tongue. That in itself is something which challenges the imagination. This commonwealth of ours, encircling a world, bringing together in one fellowship people of North America, of Europe, of Asia, of all parts of the world can provide not only happiness, security and prosperity for those of us who live in it but can also be a stirring example to the rest of mankind to follow the same path and to establish the same measure of fellowship joined with freedom throughout the whole world. Centuries ago Shakespeare wrote of the first Elizabeth:

Good grows with her. In her days every man shall eat in safety under his own vine what he plants, and sing the merry songs of peace to all his neighbours. God shall be truly known and those about her from her shall read the perfect ways of honour.

May that prophecy, written so long ago, be fulfilled by our new queen. The dangers ahead may be great, the days ahead may be hard, peace will not easily be won; but I am sure that at this time it is with hope, with faith, yes, with confidence that each of us says, "God save the Queen".

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, we of this party wish to join in approving the address and resolution so