

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, March 25, 1953

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

THE LATE QUEEN MARY

**ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II
AND THE ROYAL FAMILY**

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, fifty-two years ago, on the 8th of February, 1901, our predecessors in this house adopted an address of condolence to their new king to express their sorrow at the loss of a great sovereign lady, Queen Victoria. Twenty-seven years ago, on the 19th of January, 1926, the house early in the proceedings of that session paid its last respects to another great queen, Queen Alexandra. The influence for good throughout the far-flung British empire, and indeed throughout the whole world, of these great sovereign ladies had been very remarkable and far-reaching.

Today we meet to pay a respectful tribute to the memory of another great queen. All Canada mourns since last evening the passing of Queen Mary. Her Majesty's death will be a personal sorrow for Canadians, and indeed for all the peoples of the commonwealth. The wide scope of her work and influence can be measured, like that of her illustrious predecessors, by the universal admiration with which she was regarded. Her sympathy, kindness and graciousness over so many years have won all our hearts.

During the long reign of King George V and afterward, Queen Mary devoted herself to the welfare of her peoples, particularly to those who had suffered in the two world wars. I know that countless Canadian servicemen and their families will always be grateful for her kindly and active interest. The memory of the late queen will long be cherished throughout Canada and all the nations of the commonwealth which she had personally visited on more than one occasion. The example of her family life, her great charity and dignity, will never be forgotten. The sympathy of the Canadian people will go, I am sure, in fullest measure to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, to the Queen Mother, to Princess Margaret and the other members of the Royal Family; and to express it in the traditional form I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, that a

humble address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen in the following words:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty:
Most Gracious Sovereign:

We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, approach Your Majesty with the expression of our deep and heartfelt sorrow at the demise of Her Majesty Queen Mary. We mourn the loss of Her Majesty, whose kindness, graciousness and great influence for good over so many years won the respect and admiration of us all, and there has come to each of us a sense of personal bereavement which, we say it with all possible respect and duty, makes Your Majesty's sorrow our own.

We pray that the God of consolation may comfort Your Majesty and the members of the Royal Family in your bereavement, and that Your Majesty may long be spared to continue the eminent public services of your great predecessors.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in rising to join with the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) in the motion adopting the address of sympathy to Her Majesty the Queen, I simply wish to add a few words to those in which the Prime Minister has expressed the sympathy of every one of us and the sympathy of Canadians generally to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen and to the members of the Royal Family in the loss of one very dear to them and dear to all of us.

I am sure that not one of us will ever in our lifetime forget a picture which appeared in the press just about a year ago. It was a picture of three queens standing together in mourning, with faces of tragic sorrow, watching the beloved body of a son, husband and father being carried to its last resting place. Now one of those queens is gone. She has been so much a part of the life of every one of us that it is still difficult to realize that she has passed from this mortal scene. If anyone in any other country should ask today why it is that with disappearing monarchies in many lands our monarchy still stands so firm and strong, I think the answer is to be found in the characteristics displayed by Queen Mary throughout the whole of her life.

Her life itself was the best example of those great qualities of heart and mind and spirit which have been identified with our thoughts of royalty. Her life was one of constant devotion to duty. It was the duty of her life as a mother, as well as a queen, that established her position in the minds of all who knew her.