

and thin: "The King is dead, long live the Queen!", such is the cry that rings out anew after many centuries.

(Text):

"The King is dead: Long live the Queen!" And so once more the silver trumpets blared fanfares for the Garter King-of-Arms as he stepped to a balcony of St. James's Palace, in ancient uniform, to proclaim that by the decease of our late Sovereign of blessed and glorious memory "the Crown is solely and rightfully come to the High and Mighty Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary."

And thus, the lords spiritual and temporal of the Realm, assisted by his late Majesty's Privy Counsellors, with representatives also of other members of the commonwealth, published through the Garter King-of-Arms and with one voice and consent of tongue and heart proclaimed Queen Elizabeth II, by the Grace of God, Queen of the Realm and all her other Realms and Territories as well as Head of the Commonwealth.

The proclamation, throughout the British Isles, and in many lands across the seas, adds rightly and justly that to our gracious Queen "we acknowledge all faith and constant obedience with hearty and humble affection, beseeching God, by whom all kings and queens do reign, to bless the Royal Princess Elizabeth II with long and happy years to reign over us. God save the Queen!"

Here in Canada, following the precedent created in 1936, Elizabeth II was described in the proclamation as "Supreme Liege Lady in and over Canada". These ancient terms which date back to feudalism prove how deeply we are attached to our century-old parliamentary traditions. Yes, we are anxious to remain forever faithful to our past, because it is for us a legacy of free institutions inherited from our forefathers.

But our respect for tradition is in no way opposed to progress. On the contrary, evolution and tradition have been harmoniously combined in the development of our Canadian Constitution. We have kept our ideals as a sacred inheritance, but from a Crown colony we have grown into a self-governing dominion, being granted in 1867 almost complete internal autonomy. Gradually we have become more and more masters in our own house; gradually also, we have obtained our sovereignty even in matters affecting our external relations. Since 1931, Canada has been an international power, a sovereign and independent state, forming part of the free and voluntary association now known as the Commonwealth. Let us remark here that in the royal proclamation issued by the United Kingdom Government, we find neither the word "Dominion" nor "Empire", and that the

old style of "British Commonwealth" has been replaced by "Commonwealth". The most significant change consists in the expressions "Queen of this Realm and other Realms and territories, Head of the Commonwealth", which have been used for the first time in Great Britain. Thus, in the eyes of the United Kingdom, Canada has become a realm rather than a dominion. Thus has been fulfilled the wish of Sir John A. Macdonald, when he wanted our new-born federation to be called the "Kingdom of Canada". This further step on the road to independence proves very clearly that freedom is the cornerstone of our Commonwealth, in which all members are on a footing of absolute equality, and in which all partners enjoy the fullest measure of liberty. To the rigidity of a purely written constitution we have preferred the elasticity of our unwritten parliamentary conventions and usages. Our system of a wholly voluntary association has enabled India to become a republic, but to retain her membership in our perfectly free union of democratic nations. India, a republic, still accepts the Crown as the symbol of the unity of our Commonwealth. For this we find no precedent in all the history of mankind.

For this most recent development achieved in favour of our autonomy, the main merit is due to the very great Prime Minister who is now at the head of our country. The Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent played a conspicuous part at San Francisco in 1945. He was anxious to preserve for Canada, in the Charter of the United Nations, as large a measure of autonomy as possible. He had the heart also to secure a really efficient co-operation among all the members of the newly-created organization in order to maintain and, if necessary, restore peace. The double purpose of autonomy and co-operation seems constantly to have inspired our Prime Minister. Under his guidance amendments have been introduced into the British North America Act, to adjust its provisions to the changes created by conditions which could not possibly be foreseen in 1867. Several times, and in many different manners, Mr. St. Laurent has positively contributed to our constitutional progress. He has led us towards our complete sovereignty by causing legislation to be adopted to make our Supreme Court of Canada a really supreme and final court of appeal, and by taking steps to repatriate our constitution and evolve a purely Canadian machinery for future amendments. Finally, for the first time in the annals of our federation, thanks to Mr. St. Laurent and his colleagues, we have a Canadian as Governor General.