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*returned for your  
use and  
approval by  
John*

This is a memorable and, may I say, a heart-warming day of my life, and I confess that in the pleasure of this company, and in this setting so charged with the associations of more than two centuries in the political life of the British Isles, I find any words inadequate to convey my sense of appreciation to all of you who have here assembled to do honour to me.

It is an honour which touches me personally, as a representative of the people of Canada, through whose confidence I have held the office of Prime Minister for now very nearly nineteen years. It is an honour which surrounds the office of Prime Minister of Canada with a crowning touch, both of hospitality, as on this immediate occasion, and of a kind of fraternal regard which must ever remain one of the proudest possessions of any man's experience. It is also, if I may say so, an honour which encompasses and surpasses even the dignity and worthiness with which the office of the King's Prime Minister - in the United Kingdom and in the several nations of the Commonwealth has for long been invested. On all of these grounds, and in the fullness of time which has brought me to the threshold of the twentieth year I have held my present office, I am more deeply grateful than I can well express.