

Accession of King George VI

with respect to matters pertaining to the abdication of His former Majesty King Edward VIII, and to the accession of His Majesty King George VI.

I have inquired of His Majesty's government of the United Kingdom as to whether the correspondence which took place at that time had been tabled at Westminster, and I have been informed by the Prime Minister that it was thought inadvisable to reopen the question by placing on the table the correspondence to which my right hon. friend has referred. I have communicated with the other dominions of the British commonwealth of nations and have received from Australia a communication in which the Prime Minister states that he did not think it in the public interest to disclose the correspondence which had taken place, but that he had made a statement to his house which he believes was regarded as satisfactory in reference to the abdication.

The parliament of New Zealand does not meet for some months to come, and it is impossible to say what will be done there. I have not yet received a reply either from South Africa or from the Irish Free State. I do not believe, however, that correspondence has been asked for or presented to the parliaments of either of these countries.

May I say that when I make the statement I have referred to, if hon. members have questions which they would like to ask of myself or of other members of the government we shall do our best to reply to them, and perhaps the house might then consider whether it would wish to have more in the way of correspondence. I believe that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) has given notice to the clerk that he would like to have papers produced, and that notice would afford an opportunity, if no other were afforded, to discuss the matter were it thought advisable to consider it then. For the present, however, I have no further documents to lay on the table of the house in reference to the matter.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the house adjourned at 4.40 p.m.

Friday, January 15, 1937

The house met at three o'clock.

TRIBUTES TO DECEASED MEMBERS

THE LATE FIZALAM WILLIAM PERRAS—THE LATE
HON. PETER JOHN VENIOT

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister): Since parliament prorogued
[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

on June 23 last two hon. members who were with us in this house, at the last session, have been taken from us by the hand of death. Both occupied seats on this side of the house. Before entering upon the business of the session, it is fitting that a word should be said with respect to the double loss we have sustained.

Parliament had prorogued but a few days when word was received that Mr. Perras, the member for Wright county, had passed away. I must confess that his death came as a great shock to me personally, as indeed it must have to all hon. members, because only an evening or two before the prorogation of parliament we were seated together at this desk, after the house had discontinued its sitting, discussing the welfare of one of his constituents. The solicitude which Mr. Perras felt for those who applied to him for help was characteristic of the man. It explains, in large manner, the hold he had on the affections of the people of his constituency.

Mr. Perras was born in Hull, Quebec, in 1876. He received his early education in a primary school of Hull and was a graduate of Ottawa university. His business and political interests were for the most part identified with the county of Wright, his native county. For a time he was mayor of the municipality of Gracefield, where he subsequently resided, and was warden of the county.

Mr. Perras was elected to parliament as the member for Wright in 1925 and was returned at the general elections of 1926, 1930 and 1935, each time with an increased majority. In this house Mr. Perras did not take much part in political discussions, though when he spoke he was equally fluent in the French or the English language. He took a considerable part in the work of the committees, and he enjoyed close friendships with members on all sides of the house. Few members have been more zealous in the manner in which they have sought to serve the interests of their constituents, and it is not surprising the electors of Wright county gave to their representative the increasing measure of confidence which Mr. Perras enjoyed. I know that members of the Liberal party will greatly deplore his loss, for both in and out of parliament he was a loyal advocate of the party's principles. To me he was always a loyal supporter and a true friend. May I say that, irrespective of party, I am sure his passing will be deeply felt by hon. members generally.

Only a few days had elapsed after Mr. Perras' death when word was received of the