

hope that this freedom within the unity of the Commonwealth was "an earnest of what may yet be accomplished in an ever wider sphere. The league of the Commonwealth may serve as an exemplar to the League of Nations."

(Translation):

Sir Robert devoted himself to his work with such energy that even his own vast physical resources proved unequal to the task. He was obliged to retire in 1920. Fortunately, he soon recovered his good health, a fact which enabled him to continue his active life for a number of years afterwards. I had the pleasure of hearing him in 1929 when he spoke before the Canadian Bar Association in Quebec City. I well remember him and the words he spoke on that occasion. During the war it was believed in certain quarters that he did not understand those Canadians belonging to the French-speaking group, and that he had no real sympathy for them. It is perhaps for that reason that he availed himself of that opportunity to speak of the very origin of Canadian history in the heart of the province of Quebec, in that city which he called the "founding city" of Canada. When he had finished speaking, he had removed any doubts we may have had about his real sympathy for French-speaking Canadians. May I be allowed to quote the last sentences of his speech:

(Text):

On the whole there has been an honourable and wholesome co-operation of the two races in the upbuilding of Canadian institutions and in the development of the heritage with which Providence has endowed the Canadian nation. The pioneer races are and they always will be distinctive but in their origins they are much nearer to each other than either seems to imagine. It is desirable to emphasize their points of sympathy and contact rather than their divergences of temperament and outlook.

(Translation):

Those words were spoken by Sir Robert Borden more than a quarter of a century ago. Since then, our policy both internal and external, has undergone great changes. Perhaps he would not approve of them all. I am sure however that he would agree with us that we have gone a long way on the road to national maturity and unity.

(Text):

In the years since his death we have learned to have a more accurate and a deeper appreciation of a great Canadian statesman. And I am sure that all Canadians who gaze upon the statue which has been unveiled today will recall with respect his sincerity of purpose and his selfless devotion to his country.

One of Sir Robert's oldest friends and perhaps his closest collaborator, who had hoped to be here on this occasion but who is prevented by illness from being present, has written me the following letter:

360 Bay Street, Toronto  
January 3, 1957

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I feel grateful for your invitation to be present at the coming Sir Robert Borden memorial event (January 8) but am resolutely forbidden to leave the house by my doctor. I have, therefore, prepared a very short statement of acknowledgment and regret. This I hope you will read to the assembled people.

There has been nothing in the past that I had to shrink from which I regretted like I do this failure to take my part.

I sincerely appreciate the invitation and am grateful to you personally.

Sincerely yours,  
Arthur Meighen.

This is the statement enclosed with Mr. Meighen's letter.

It is with extreme remorse that I find myself ill and quite unable to attend the proceedings on Parliament Hill which are to do honour to Sir Robert Borden.

In his lifetime, Sir Robert Borden had friends unnumbered in all parts of Canada, but none, I sincerely submit, more devoted and tireless than myself and this relationship continued until the hour of his death.

To have survived until this event takes place will add much to my feelings of gratitude and satisfaction, and one cannot be wrong in indulging an inward assurance that the waves of goodwill generated here, the richer sense of unity and common purpose inspired, the pride we all have in those who have toiled nobly and passed on, that all these flaming truths will keep us resolutely on our course.

Arthur Meighen.

**Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson (Speaker of the Senate):** Ladies and gentlemen, may I present Mr. Henry Borden, nephew of Sir Robert Borden and one of the most outstanding Canadian figures in the business and professional life of Canada.

**Mr. Henry Borden, Q.C.:** Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Chief Justice, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: This is indeed a historic occasion and I wish, Mr. Prime Minister, to thank you sincerely for doing me the great honour and giving me the unforgettable privilege of unveiling this statue of Sir Robert Borden. I have no hesitation in saying that I dearly loved Sir Robert and my life has been enriched by the deep affection and kindness which he bestowed on me.

The statue, in the design and completion of which you, sir, have taken such a genuine personal interest, will serve to keep fresh in the minds of future generations the memory