

to this country after a trip through western Europe and England where he gathered first-hand knowledge of present conditions both on the continent and in Britain. To our Prime Minister were accorded in the course of his visits a succession of well merited honours absolutely without precedent in Canadian history. The nations of western Europe with whom we were allied during the difficult years of war learned through our common effort to know Canada and Canadians better than ever before, and have fully appreciated the magnificent effort put forth by this country in the common cause. In our wartime Prime Minister they recognize the personification of many of the qualities of this nation which they found admirable. In him they saw a national leader entrusted by a free people with our highest office and responsibility for a longer period than any other individual in our history, a national leader regarded in other countries as one of the wisest, most distinguished and respected of world statesmen. The people of Canada must look with gratification upon the honours bestowed upon our Prime Minister if for no other reason than as eloquent testimony of the sincere gratitude and affection with which the people of those countries regard this land of ours, feelings won for us by those valiant young men who were privileged to contribute much to the successful conclusion of the struggle by which these peoples were freed from enslavement and defeat.

The Prime Minister has, as well, represented the government and the people of Canada at a very happy and important event in the family life of Their Majesties, the wedding of Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, an historic occasion followed from afar with affectionate interest by Canadians from coast to coast and in every walk of life. It was a remarkable distinction for Canada to be represented by our Prime Minister, who is leader both in length and in excellence of service among ministers of the crown throughout the entire commonwealth of nations. I am sure his presence in London for the celebration of this marriage was the best possible expression of universal and sincere good wishes of Canadians to the happy couple, and to His Majesty of the loyalty and devotion of his Canadian subjects everywhere.

It was a particular pleasure to learn that His Majesty was graciously pleased to invest the Prime Minister with the Order of Merit, and our most sincere congratulations are extended to him on this great honour.

As Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Prime Minister has been succeeded by the right hon. minister (Mr. St. Laurent), who

[Mr. Dickey.]

now holds this portfolio with such distinction and advantage to the Canadian nation. The very heavy responsibilities which world conditions today impose upon the statement of all nations are being discharged on our behalf by the minister in a most admirable and satisfactory manner. At the opening of the united nations assembly at Lake Success, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, speaking on behalf of Canada, expressed with force and frankness the determination of this country to work in cooperation with all other peoples of like mind and will for the establishment and maintenance of lasting peace. He and the other members of the Canadian delegation have acquitted themselves with outstanding distinction. From their earnestness and frankness all the peoples of the world who are permitted to do so, have learned of the aspirations and ideals of the Canadian people and our single-minded purpose to contribute, to the full extent of our abilities and resources, to the cause of international amity and cooperation. Attacks upon our actions and our motives have been and will be made. These attacks are disquieting, not because of the unfounded and false accusations they contain, but because of the illwill and wilful prejudice they disclose on the part of those who indulge in them. It would indeed be unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, if these same opinions were to be kept alive and given currency by unthinking and self-seeking groups within our own country who, for political advantage, might attempt to misrepresent and distort Canada's position or intentions in international affairs.

It is well recognized that Canada has the special interests and responsibilities of a Pacific power. The conclusion of a peace treaty with Japan is an immediate and pressing problem. I speak from personal experience when I say that Canada, while not an occupying power, is well represented in Japan. The part that we have taken in the various activities relating to the Japanese empire since the cessation of hostilities has consolidated our position and ensures appropriate recognition of our interest in the whole far-eastern area. Canada is pleased with the initiative already taken by the government of the United States toward the final negotiation of a peace treaty with Japan, and we look forward to continued cooperation with the other interested powers to this end. However, our primary interest must always be in the improvement of world conditions generally, and in particular the early restoration of the economic life of Europe.