

kings and queens do reign to bless the Royal Prince George the Sixth with long and happy years to reign over us."

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I do not rise to voice any objection to the words of the address, but as I intimated yesterday I protest against the government introducing an address at this stage of the proceedings. King George VI may be king de facto, but as I see the matter he is not king de jure until this parliament enacts appropriate legislation.

I am really not concerned as to what person occupies the throne, but I am concerned with maintaining the rights of parliament, and it is strange that I should have to take this attitude especially with the present Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) in his seat. It is undoubtedly regrettable that matters of procedure and criticisms of government policy should be mixed up with a formal address to His Majesty, but as I suggested yesterday the Prime Minister might have avoided this by deferring his motion. The bill which the Prime Minister has introduced should in my judgment have preceded this address; otherwise the debate on that bill loses all reality. The Prime Minister stated yesterday that the bill referred particularly to the question of succession in the future, but surely when King Edward VIII was placed by Mr. Baldwin in the position where he had to make an important choice, and he chose abdication—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Might I interrupt my hon. friend? I do not think he intends to misrepresent Mr. Baldwin's position, but I have no understanding that Mr. Baldwin placed the former king in any such position. All that I have heard, and all that I have read of dispatches, would indicate that His former Majesty had himself asked certain questions of Mr. Baldwin which Mr. Baldwin answered. I do not think that in any way did Mr. Baldwin seek to embarrass His former Majesty.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, I refer to Mr. Baldwin's speech in the House of Commons at Westminster:

I saw the king on Monday, November 16, and I began by giving him my view of a possible marriage. I told him that I did not think that a particular marriage was one that would receive the approbation of the country. That marriage would have involved the lady becoming queen. I did tell His Majesty once that I might be a remnant of the old Victorians, but that my worst enemy would not say of me that I did not know what the reaction of the English people would be to any particular course of

action, and I told him that so far as they went I was certain that that would be impracticable. . . .

Then His Majesty said to me—I have his permission to state this—that he wanted to tell me something that he had long wanted to tell me. He said: "I am going to marry Mrs. Simpson, and I am prepared to go."

It is to that statement I refer.

Mr. DUPUIS: What is the hon. member quoting from?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: That statement you will find in Mr. Baldwin's speech in the House of Commons.

Mr. DUPUIS: But in what publication?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I just happen to be quoting from a number of documents that are included in the January issue of the Nineteenth Century magazine.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, I think I am quite in order.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my hon. friend that I imagine the document he is quoting from is not the full text or he would probably have given it. I think the Hansard of the House of Commons at Westminster will show that prior to the part my hon. friend has just read Mr. Baldwin had said that His Majesty had raised this question with Mr. Baldwin first, asking Mr. Baldwin what in his opinion would be the result of an endeavour to have parliament enact amorganatic marriage act.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: My point, Mr. Speaker, is this, that when the king was placed in that position, or found himself in that position, the succession was at that time altered. That is all I want to emphasize at this time.

It seems to me that we as members should not have been required to take the oath of allegiance before taking our seats in this house and voting on this question. The other day we received a note from the clerk of the house—I have no doubt he had been instructed by the government—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my hon. friend that the government has not sought to instruct the clerk, but I believe the clerk has tried to perform his duty as he believed it should be performed.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The note said that an hon. member cannot sit in the house until he has taken and subscribed to the oath as required by the British North America Act. We had already taken the oath a year ago and already have seats in parliament. If on