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The future of Ottawa - the duty of the present Parliament

The present would appear to be the moment at which large plans for the future should be conceived. The experience of all cities and capitals has been that a moderate expenditure at the early stages of development not only means an enormous saving for the future, but makes possible a degree of planning and accommodation which becomes in the course of time all but prohibitive. The best example in that particular in Ottawa today is the main approach to our parliament buildings. Metcalfe Street should be a wide avenue, connecting the parliament buildings and the Victoria National Museum at the opposite end. No doubt those who planned Parliament Hill and erected the buildings here felt they had done enough for their day and generation and that some future generations would take care of the approaches and in particular the widening of Metcalfe Street. While that need is apparent today, it will be increasingly so through years to come. Even yet I believe it should be met without delay. For the present, however, we have the open spaces of Park Area and that is so to speak still wholly within our control for that reason, and because the whole future development of the city depends upon what is accomplished there, there is need of giving this larger undertaking priority.

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