

Death of King George V

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, it is for me a great honour and an important duty to second the resolution of the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) expressing to His Majesty the King and to Queen Mary the sentiments of profound and respectful sympathy that the death of King George V has called forth from the hearts of the Canadian people.

Throughout his entire life, by his dignity, his universally known kindness, as well as by the conscientious performance of his duties, his devotion to the interests of the empire and his strict adherence to constitutional rules and practice, the sovereign who has just departed has merited the fidelity and affection of his subjects, while at the same time fulfilling the ideal of the monarch, friendly to peace and respectful of the liberty of individuals and of nations.

It is during his glorious reign and with his cooperation that Canada has evolved from the status of a colony to that of a nation, free but ever loyal to its king. This is for us Canadians a particular reason to honour the memory of him who thus accepted to become in a manner more directly the sovereign of this country of ours, which is gradually and peacefully progressing from adolescence to national maturity.

As a representative in this house of the French population, I am sure that I faithfully interpret the sentiments of my compatriots when I say that the departed king has instilled into the hearts of all of us feelings of respect, of loyalty and of love that only truly worthy, truly great kings can inspire.

In the family of the British dominions, George V has magnificently incarnated the principle of unity, of duration, that gives to the members of this world-wide association the inspiration and the means to accomplish their respective tasks and to fulfil their common destiny. In fact, as a French writer has said, the king "represents the nation in all of its characteristics that are continuous, unchangeable, eternal."

If Goethe was right in saying: "Nothing is great that does not endure," history will record that it is the reign of George V that ensured the survival of constitutional monarchy in the world.

Parliament honours itself this day in rendering, on behalf of every citizen of the country, its homage of just gratitude to him who has so nobly lived his life as a man and so usefully fulfilled his mission as a king.

To His Majesty King Edward VIII to Queen Mary, to the whole royal family so cruelly stricken, Canadians respectfully extend

[Mr. Bennett.]

sympathies all the more sincere because of the profound grief they themselves feel.

I desire in addition to assure His Majesty the King that our loyalty and fidelity to him, our respect for his person and our attachment to British traditions will be the same under his reign as they have been under that of his illustrious predecessor.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, it has been a great delight to me to hear the expressions of loyal devotion to our king and queen. I should like to add to those expressions just a few words on behalf of the people whom I represent, the loyal social credit people throughout the Dominion of Canada. We rejoice in our king; we rejoice in the British monarchy; we have rejoiced particularly in the good work of King George. I am reminded of the words of Tennyson in his great poem on the Death of the Duke of Wellington, wherein he speaks of—

That sober freedom out of which there
springs
Our loyal passion for our temperate kings.

That sober freedom, difficult to define but nevertheless a remarkable characteristic of the race to which we have the privilege to belong, a sober freedom out of which there springs a loyal passion for constitutional monarchy. Starting in the last century, about 1820, there became intensified one of the greatest struggles for the liberty of man in this world's history. It first became really manifest in Great Britain when the reform bill of 1832 was passed. From that time on and throughout that century, culminating in 1917, there was an incessant and tireless struggle of the common man upward to freedom; a struggle to gain representative institutions, responsible government, freedom to vote as he chose through the secret ballot and universal suffrage. And through all that struggle, steadily with the people was the temperate monarchy of Great Britain, particularly through the years of Victoria the Good, when the greatest number of those battles were fought. Through all those years the monarchy of Britain was with the common man, with the people. I am reminded of a little poem which I shall modify slightly; I believe it expresses the thought as I see it:

As to the bow the cord is,
So to Britain is the monarchy.
Though it bends her it obeys her;
Though it draws her yet it follows.

A most remarkable condition, which I believe has not been known in all this world's history before, but a condition verily true.

Commencing in 1920, or perhaps a little before, the British people began to discover