

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

REQUEST FOR TWO-DAY RECESS

On the order for motions:

Mr. ROBERT FAIR (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether immediate provision will be made for a two-day recess so that hon. members of the house and our friends can properly celebrate the seventeenth of March without interfering with our work? I may say that this has been denied us during the war years, and now that peace has come we hope that this matter will be given consideration.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I can imagine of no better way for my hon. friend to celebrate the day of which he speaks than to attend church on that day.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

FAREWELL ADDRESS BY BOTH HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): As hon. members are aware, His Excellency the Governor General and Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice will be taking their official departure from Canada to-morrow. I intimated yesterday that I thought it would be the wish of all hon. members that some expression should be given by both houses of parliament to the appreciation which we all feel of the great services which His Excellency has rendered Canada during the years that he has represented His Majesty in this country. I stated at the time that I proposed to introduce a motion which would give expression to the feelings which we cherish in common. I have the motion before me and I will introduce it in a moment.

Before bringing forward the motion in a formal way may I say that I am sure all hon. members were impressed yesterday by the reference made by His Excellency in a personal note in the speech from the throne to the relations which he had enjoyed with the ministers of the crown, with members of parliament and with the people of our country. Those relationships, as Lord Athlone stated, have extended over many years and have in many ways been quite intimate. His Excellency said that they had endeared the people of this country to the hearts of the Princess Alice and himself. This afternoon I should like to say that the sentiments thus expressed by His Excellency are I believe warmly reciprocated towards himself and the

Princess Alice by the people of Canada, and, in particular, by their representatives in this parliament.

Speaking personally, if I may be permitted to do so, I cannot begin to say what a privilege, what a pleasure, what a help in every way it has been to me to enjoy the close association which I have had with His Excellency during the years he has been His Majesty's representative in this country. All the relationships to which His Excellency referred, his relationship to the Prime Minister, to the ministers, to the members of parliament and to the people, have been in most complete accord with the spirit and the letter of constitutional procedure and constitutional practice. They have in addition been of very great assistance to the ministry and to the country at a time of its greatest need.

To mention only one of many good offices, I doubt if one can begin to appreciate what it has meant to have at Government House in these years in the persons of His Excellency Lord Athlone and Princess Alice, the Countess of Athlone, two persons who have given so generously of their time and their thought, not only to matters immediately concerned with the war effort of Canada but also have done so much to welcome to our country in Canada's name so many of the distinguished personages who have visited our country during the last six years. There never has been a time when so many have come to our land from other countries. As an instance of the growth in international relations in that period of time I might mention that when His Excellency arrived in Canada there were only nine missions, four headed by high commissioners from other nations of the British commonwealth and five from foreign powers in the nature of legations or embassies. Today there are some twenty-six in all, five from other parts of the commonwealth and the remainder from foreign countries. This serves to indicate the extent of the development of Canada's international relationships. In connection with important aspects of that development no persons have played a more helpful part than have His Excellency and Her Royal Highness.

I should like to say many things in bidding farewell to His Excellency and Her Royal Highness. I have however expressed something of my own feelings in this address which I am about to ask the house to approve. I believe the sentiments there expressed will accord completely with those of all other hon. members of this house. As my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken), who