

the king's devotion to his mother everyone is aware, but who can forget the words that he used on his accession to the throne with respect to his wife? Not "Queen" as we use the word, but this is what he said on that May day when he ascended the throne:

I am encouraged by the knowledge that I have in my dear wife one who will be a constant helpmate in every endeavour for our people's good.

With all the pomp and pageantry surrounding the throne, the late king in ascending it spoke of his "dear wife." For twenty-five years she was his constant partner in joy and sorrow, she shared with him all the joys and all the woes of that great office. At the end, in the ancient hall at Westminster, I heard him utter these words:

I have been blessed in all my work in having beside me my dear wife, of whom you have spoken so kindly.

I happen to know that one of the things that gave His late Majesty the greatest pleasure was the thought that on the day on which that speech with amplifiers and broadcasts was carried to every part of the kingdom, a workman, speaking to a fellow workman, said, "Why, Bill, he is just like you and me. Did you hear him? He spoke with feeling when he spoke of his wife; he felt just the way we do when we speak about ours." I happen to know that gave to His Majesty the greatest joy possible. One of his subjects, humbly illiterate if you will, living a life of relative poverty, recognized the choking accents of his sovereign as he spoke of his dear wife at the close of that memorable address. He said, "I have been blessed in all my work in having beside me my dear wife." What a tribute to home and mother!

Our hearts go out, not to the great queen who has ennobled her high position and filled it with dignity and honour to the pride of all subjects of the king, but to the widowed mother, bereaved of husband, mourning his passing, who has now become the subject of her son. It is in that sense I join with the right hon. gentleman in his moving reference to Her Majesty. It is in that sense that we adopt this address of condolence to her in her great loss.

There remain but a few words to speak of the young man who has succeeded to the throne of his fathers as Edward VIII. He is no stranger to us. Frequently he has visited our country. His democratic attitude toward life, his wide knowledge of men, his clear conception of his obligations and responsibilities, his extraordinarily fine training in all the obligations of kingship enable him to come to

[Mr. Bennett.]

the throne equipped as was his father or, as the Prime Minister has said, perhaps better fitted by travel to discharge the great and onerous duties of his high office. We render him the homage of our grateful hearts. We offer him the tribute of our affection because when he came here in 1919 there was no human, however hardened, no citizen, however old, who could look upon that smile without emotion. It charmed, it fascinated, it commanded the respect and admiration of all.

With the lapse of time, with the growth of knowledge, and with wider understanding, greater wisdom and much greater sagacity, he succeeds to the throne of his fathers, equipped to carry on the work so successfully initiated and carried on by George V. We are his subjects; but we wish him well, not because of his kingly office, not because we owe him allegiance, but because he embodies in his person those attributes which we would have possessed by the head of our state, the head of Canada, speaking, as he does, in the terms of the British North America Act and of the Statute of Westminster, through His Excellency the Governor General, the personal representative of that king.

But there is another side; and depressed as we are, as we contemplate conditions in the world around us, worried as we all are with the thought of grim realities that cannot be cast away with a few words, nor dealt with in rounded sentences—the vast, grim realities of world conditions as they are—we thank God with grateful hearts that He has given us the great king whom we have had and who has passed to his reward, having had three score years and ten of active life, filled with anxiety and sacrificing toil for his people. We thank the Giver of all good and perfect gifts for that great life; we thank Him that His Majesty's Consort the Queen still lives, and that He has given us, in the person of our new king, one who will maintain the high traditions of a great office and will carry forward, as he himself has said, by every means within his power, the policies, the point of view and the ideals of his father who has passed to his great reward.

Here I close, hoping with all hon. members of this house, as all human beings must hope, for brighter and better days, hoping that the wisdom of men, guided by an all-seeing Providence, may so direct their steps and so advise their sovereign, that the dark possibilities to which the Prime Minister has alluded may never become actualities, but that with wisdom, fearing God and loving the king, we may serve our day and generation as our great departed king served his.

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