

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
SUPPLEMENTARY PAPER

No. 53/21

An address by the Minister of  
Trade and Commerce, Mr. C.D. Howe,  
made to the Canadian Chamber of  
Commerce in Great Britain, London,  
June 9, 1953.

Like so many of my fellow-Canadians, I am here in Britain for the Coronation of Her Majesty, our Gracious Queen. Her father was beloved by the Canadian people as a great and good King. His passing was deeply mourned. But I venture to say that Queen Elizabeth already has a place in the hearts of her Canadian subjects never before occupied by a reigning sovereign.

Scotsmen and Englishmen may quarrel as to whether Her Majesty is the first or second Elizabeth to ascend the throne of the United Kingdom. Perhaps Canadians have at least as good a case as the Scots to argue that Elizabeth is the first of her name to rule over our country, because after all the French colonies in North America were not ceded to Britain until 1763.

But Canadians are not worried about such matters. What they do feel more strongly than ever before is that Her Majesty is Queen of Canada. Constitutionally, the sovereign equality of the members of the Commonwealth has been firmly established for many years. But I believe that our young Queen has given a new and deeper meaning to the abstract principles upon which the Commonwealth is founded.

When Canadians sing the National Anthem they no longer think of a sovereign living in remote splendor thousands of miles away, but of the charming young woman who, with her gallant husband, visited our land so soon before she had to assume the heavy burdens of the Throne.

I am sure all of you join with me in hoping that Her Majesty will be able to visit again before very long.

Canadians rejoice with their fellow subjects of the Commonwealth at the coronation of a new Queen. We rejoice, too, that here in the United Kingdom one can see on every hand evidence of a renewed vigour and a new hope. There is evidence of a feeling that the reign of a second Elizabeth will witness the progress and prosperity of Britain under the first Elizabeth.

It is customary for visitors from Britain to Canada to say how impressed they are by the material progress being made in our country, to speak about Canada as a land of promise. Today, I should like to say, as a Canadian visiting Britain, how encouraged I am by what is going on in these islands.