

~~W.L. Mackenzie King~~ to Baldwin C 49322

For the first time in her history Canada has the honour of entertaining as her guest a Prime Minister of England. Upon several occasions it has been the privilege of Prime Ministers of Canada to enjoy the cordial hospitality of the British Government, especially when attending the councils of the Empire; councils from which evolved a wonderful coalition the Commonwealth of nations.

Today a precedent has been established in international relations, the Prime Minister of England has come to visit Canada. We therefore bid you an unbounded welcome to the capital and to Canada from sea to sea, nor is our welcome less hearty to Mrs. Baldwin and to the members of your family by whom you are accompanied.

Your presence here at this moment is of special significance. The ceremonies you will attend in the capital mark the closing of our celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation. Sixty years ago the Fathers of Confederation made the bold experiment in government of uniting the provinces of the Dominion under a central form of government, based upon the traditions and procedure of the British House of Commons. Under this constitution, problems incident to distance and isolation have been solved and our people from the most remote parts assemble under one roof to legislate for the good of Canada as a whole. How far they had to travel will be manifest in the course of your journey.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
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