

journalism as well as in business. All these activities have been reflected in a very real way in the able manner in which he addressed this house this afternoon. On behalf of hon. members on this side in particular I should like to congratulate him very warmly on his achievement in winning the constituency of Brandon in the recent by-election. His actions on that occasion speak even louder of his abilities and attainments than his words this afternoon, eloquent as they were.

The hon. member for Stormont also made an exceptionally fine address. He has been in the house now for some three years. We have heard him on different occasions, and on each occasion have admired his facility in speaking in either English or French and in always contributing something of value to the debate under discussion. May I say to my hon. friend that by his speech this afternoon he has greatly enhanced the already very high reputation which he holds as a member of this house.

Naturally I am more than pleased to join with the leader of the opposition (Mr. Manion) in recording the expressions of delight with which the people of Canada from coast to coast have learned of the decision of their majesties to visit Canada in May and June of the present year. The king and queen, when they come to this country, will receive a right royal and truly loyal welcome from the people of Canada.

I should also like to join with the Leader of the Opposition in my expression of admiration of the fine personal qualities of their majesties, of the beauty of their home and family life, and above all, of the manner in which they have consecrated their lives to the public service. I believe it is literally true that no sovereigns in the history of Britain, and it is a fine history, have ever devoted themselves more whole-heartedly and completely to the service of their subjects.

The visit of their majesties to Canada will be a great historic occasion. It will be the first time that the citizens of this country will have had the opportunity of personally welcoming on their own soil their king and queen. We are all delighted that their majesties have found it possible in connection with their visit to Canada to pay a visit also to our good neighbour, the President of the United States, and to spend a few days in the United States while they are on this side of the ocean. It is not only the first time that a British sovereign has visited the North American continent, but it is the first time that a British sovereign has been in the western hemisphere. Taken altogether, I am sure the visit will be one which will go down in the

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

annals of history as of outstanding importance in the story of the great empire of which Canada is a part.

The house might be interested in just a word regarding one or two features of the visit. The arrangements with respect to the royal tour have been placed by the government in the hands of an interdepartmental committee composed of prominent members of the public service under the supervision of the senior members of the cabinet. The committee will work in close cooperation with provincial and municipal authorities.

I should like to stress, in speaking of the visit, how difficult it is both for the committee and for the members of the government to seek to meet the wishes and demands of different localities as to having their majesties visit them while they are in Canada. The main purpose of the visit, of course, will be to enable their majesties to see as much of the people of Canada as they can, and to enable the people of Canada to see as much of their majesties as they can. For that reason it has been found necessary to eliminate most of what otherwise there might have been in the nature of functions and ceremonies. Their majesties are undertaking a very extended tour, and I should like to emphasize how generous they have been in consenting within the space of one month to travel from one end of Canada to the other, thereby visiting all the provinces of the dominion.

There have been and naturally will be many disappointments that it is not possible for the king and queen to visit certain localities. But may I say that, having personally gone carefully into the whole matter of the itinerary with the members of the committee and with the railway authorities, I know that the itinerary has been worked out with the utmost care, having regard to what the distances are in this country and to what the strain is certain to be upon our royal guests during the time that they are here.

Their majesties have expressed a wish not to travel at night in order that they may see as much as possible of the country and of the citizens of Canada. When one eliminates travel by night on great journeys such as they will be taking, and confines travel mostly to the day time, it will be seen at once that the arrangements which have been made as to localities to be visited go perhaps about as far as it is possible to have them go. The itinerary will be gone over again with great care by the railway authorities when they are fixing the minutes—I might almost say the seconds—to be given to the different localities to be visited, in regard to train services the movement of trains and the like, and if it is at all possible in any way to make any ex-