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French-speaking populations, and the danger of any rift between Britain and the United States which might tend to split the nation's unity.

Prime Minister King thanked the retiring High Commissioner for his kindly words, both for himself and for the government and the people of Canada.

"I am no diplomat", Mr. King said amidst laughter, "but a party politician and I can say what I like. Mr. MacDonald and I have been very close friends for a great many years. Anyone who has known him at all well and known his qualities of heart and mind, is fortunate in having a friend with qualities such as he possesses.

"It is doubtful if Canada has ever had anyone—even our Governor Generals—who have come to know this country as Mr. MacDonald has. He has travelled widely, has written about this country, its birds and its Northland, and in every way has en-

deared himself to the people of Canada."

Lifting the curtain of history, Mr. King told the gathering of Mr. MacDonald's appointment to his Ottawa post in 1940.

"One day", he said, "I received a cable from Mr. Churchill asking me what my government would think of having Malcolm MacDonald as United Kingdom High Commissioner to Canada.

"I replied that I didn't know of any man living who would be more welcome to the government and to the people of Canada than Mr. MacDonald. No person could have filled that office—I will not say better—but as well as he has done."

Mr. King referred to the High Commissioner as a tower of strength to the government of Canada during the past five difficult years of war.

"We are disappointed that he is leaving Canada to go to a country so far distant as Malaya. The problems there are great indeed. Much of the hope for the future peace of the world depends on the orderly development of those parts. The United Kingdom did not make the appointment of Mr. MacDonald to his high post there lightly."

The Prime Minister recalled Mr. MacDonald's habit of going around Ottawa without a hat or overcoat in Winter.

"I wish to warn him that if he goes around Malaya without a hat and just wearing a straw belt, that he's apt to get pretty badly burned.

"It seems probable that from time to time he will be returning from Malaya to the United Kingdom. When he does so, I trust that he will always return by way of Canada".

As Mr. King concluded his remarks, guests rose and joined in the singing of "Auld Lang Syne". Immediately afterwards, Mr. MacDonald and Miss Sheila MacDonald received and shook hands with each of the guests in the Chateau drawing-room.