

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RIGHT
HON. L. B. PEARSON, P.C., C.C., O.M., O.B.E.
(28th December 1972)

I have just learned the news that we have been dreading, that the Right Hon. L. B. Pearson, former Prime Minister of Canada, has breathed his last. I should like to offer these words in his memory.

The death of a great man, and everyone accords this tribute to Lester Bowles Pearson, brings grief and a sense of loss, not only to his family and friends, but to the wide community (in this case the world-wide community) which he has served in the course of his long life in public affairs.

To Mrs. Pearson, who has shared his joys and sorrows over so many years, and to the immediate family, I offer for Her Majesty The Queen and for all Canadians, as well as for my wife and myself, our sympathy and our prayers for their consolation.

There is a happier side to our present sorrow as we think, in the spirit of Ecclesiasticus 44, of our debt to this "famous man", of how much he has given to us. We thank God for a life which has been of such profound benefit to this times and a blessing to such a countless number of friends. He will be remembered by so many and for so much.

For almost 50 years of active life he devoted his great qualities of mind and of leadership, not only to the service of his own country, but to the whole society of nations. One has only to think of the positions of responsibility which he has successfully filled to realize the extent of this contribution.