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Canada will deeply mourn the brave men who lost their lives in the two recent accidents to bomber planes in Britain. The sympathy of the whole country will go out in full measure to the families of the Canadians, the Britons and the Americans who thus ended their lives in the faithful performance of their dangerous duty. While other brave men will move forward to take their place, we can never praise too highly the pioneer courage of the pilots who have gone.

It is with the deepest sorrow that we have received the news of the loss of the Right Honourable A. B. Purvis in one of these tragic happenings. In peace time he had won for himself a great reputation, not only as a leader of industry but as a public-spirited citizen of Canada, with a high regard for human values and the public welfare. When war came, without hesitation he placed his great abilities at the service of his country. His work as head of the British Purchasing Mission to the United States has been of the highest importance. In circumstances of stress, difficulty and the growing intensity of many activities, he guided his great work with the steadiest of hands and the clearest of brains. It is not too much to say that his character and achievement had made the deepest impression in Canada, in Britain and in the United States. At Washington he earned and received many tributes of respect and regard from President Roosevelt, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau and all those with whom he laboured. His work was a splendid example of the faithful dedication of great abilities to a great cause.

Canada also will feel that there is an especial poignancy in the passing of Captain Joseph Creighton Mackay. As soon as he had recovered from his shattering experience on the flight in which Sir Frederick Banting lost his life, Captain Mackay returned to his dangerous duty and carried on with rare gallantry.

To the families of Captain Mackay and the other brave men who shared these great adventures, the people and government of Canada will wish to send these words of deep sympathy and proud and enduring memory.