



By courtesy of "Bon-Accord"

Mr. Mackenzie King on his way to plant a Coronation Maple Tree in the grounds of Gordon House, Aberdeen, accompanied by Lady Aberdeen, Lady Pentland, and Rev. Matthew Urie Baird and Mrs. Baird.

A Prime Minister in Quest of the Homes of His Ancestors.

By ISHBEL, MARCHIONESS OF ABERDEEN AND TEMAIR, G.B.E., LL.D.

THE visit of the Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, to Scotland, after he had concluded his labours in connection with the Imperial Conference of 1937, was of a rather unique character.

For many years he had desired to spend some time in Scotland in order to visit the districts where his family had lived before going to Canada, but on every occasion when he came over to this country his time had been so fully occupied with public work in connection with Canada and Imperial relations, that he never had time to carry out his intentions. And so the promise made to Lord Aberdeen and myself 43 years ago, when we first made his acquaintance, that he would come and visit us in our Scottish home, was never fulfilled.

But at last this year he wrote to me saying that he could set apart three days to fulfil his old promise, and that he was, moreover, greatly gratified that the City of Aberdeen had offered him the Freedom of Aberdeen, and that he had written to say he could come to Aberdeen to receive this much-prized honour.

It will be perceived that, taking one day for the Aberdeen City ceremonies, there was not much time remaining for Mr. Mackenzie King to explore the haunts of his ancestors. Nevertheless, with the help of diligent enquiries made by kind friends, much was accomplished.

The Lord Provost of Dundee personally took the Canadian Prime Minister a tour round Dundee before entertaining him at a Civic Luncheon, and he was also introduced to Dundee's industries, and to the old part of the city where his grandfather had lived with his family in much poverty, and under many privations, before they took ship for the new home on the other side of the Atlantic. Some kinsfolk, too, gathered together to greet their distinguished relative, and presented him with a Scottish pearl breastpin as a souvenir of his connection with Dundee.

The Canadian Premier was piloted through the wilds of Glen Shee and Glen Isla by Mr. T. Mackay, a native of Glen Shee, who introduced Mr. King to various old inhabitants of the glens, whose stories of the life and

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King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG
26 J 7 volume 25) Genealogy - King
[MacDougall] 1915-1946

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