

During the period of our constitutional growth since Confederation, the Parliament of Canada has assumed from time to time powers which were formerly exercised on our behalf by the parliament of Great Britain. We are proud to proclaim that in all that pertains to our domestic and external relations our parliament now enjoys a freedom comparable to that of the parliament at Westminster. With this increase of authority and responsibility has come a closer bond of sympathy and union with the free parliaments of the Empire and more cordial and effective co-operation in the common concerns of government under the British Crown.

The reconstruction of the Houses of Parliament seemed to afford an opportune moment in which to give renewed expression to the cherished relationship of the parliament at Ottawa to the parliament at Westminster. In installing a clock in the Peace Tower an effort accordingly was made to reproduce, as accurately as sound would permit, the Westminster Chimes, and the notes of Big Ben. When therefore from time to time we hear the striking of the hours and the quarters, we are reminded of the heritage of freedom which has come to us through the establishment in Canada of British parliamentary institutions, the like establishment of which in other Dominions beyond the seas is, next to our common allegiance to the Crown, the surest bond of union between the community of free nations which comprise the British Empire.

We trust that, despite its exacting engagements, you will enjoy to the full your all too brief stay in Canada, and that on your return home you will convey to the parliament and people of Great Britain our cordial greetings and warm appreciation of the evidence of their affectionate regard for our country which your visit affords.

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Prime Minister of Canada.

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Secretary of State.

Ottawa, Canada,
August 2, 1927.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

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