

Majesty King George the Fifth. The purpose of the Resolution now submitted to Parliament is officially and solemnly to record the unanimous sentiments of our Dominion.

The anxiety of all Canadians has been daily demonstrated throughout the many weeks of His Majesty's illness. Many millions of subjects who had never seen their Sovereign and did not know him in the flesh, were apt to think of the King as they did of the Crown—as the emblem of sovereignty, the ideal link binding the members of the Commonwealth. His Majesty's illness has brought us all nearer to a realization of his humanity. Filial affection for the man himself has sprung up in every breast. A subdued chord has vibrated, and a new link has been forged in the chain of fealty.

Since the dictum that the King reigns but does not govern has impressed itself more and more deeply into the Constitution, the Sovereign has lost many of the opportunities for contact with the nation which a greater share in the administration formerly allowed him. But if his responsibility has diminished, not so his moral influence. As the supreme head of the nation, the King stands as an example, and his life is a standard which draws out the best instincts of the people. The simple and kind-hearted manner in which the manifold duties of the King in the social life of the community have been daily accomplished has drawn unto him the affection of one and all. There have been moments since his Coronation when his constitutional functions have brought him face to face with problems which he alone could solve. At no time has he been unequal to his task; his clear conscience and high sense of duty have invariably led him to the right solution.

The war opened for the nation a chapter of anguish and sorrow which was fully shared by His Majesty. His constant thought and concern were for the sailors and the soldiers, whom he visited at the peril of his life. From one visit he returned on a stretcher. If the democracy over which he presides acclaims his sovereignty, and prays the Almighty for a prompt and complete restoration of his health, His Majesty but reaps where he has sown, his people returning in fullest measure the devotion and affection which, without stint, he has bestowed upon them.

Hon. W. B. WILLOUGHBY: Honourable gentlemen, because of the short tenure of my new position, and because of the extra work which the undertaking of new responsibilities has involved, I have not had the opportunity to consider this matter as I would have wished. I should like, however, to say

a word or two as to the increased power in this democratic age of the King of England. Students of history will remember the uncertainty, not of the legal or constitutional powers of past sovereigns, but of their sway in the minds and hearts of the English people. The King was once all powerful; but we know that in the time of the Stuarts, and even in more recent times, during the Guelph and the Windsor dynasties, there was in the hearts of the people no such universal loyalty to the Crown as there is at the present time. We know that even when Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria ascended the Throne it was contended by the incoming ministry that the ladies of the bedchamber in the Queen's suite should be replaced by others more in sympathy with the Government in power. Anybody who is familiar with the letters of Junius, supposed to be written by Sir Philip Francis, knows how different was the position held by the King at that time in the hearts of the people of Great Britain.

It is due to the present dynasty to say that it has been able to reconcile the monarchy with true democracy, and to keep pace with the growth of democracy throughout the world. The power of the aristocracy as against the democracy is diminishing enormously in England, though it is still a stable and very important factor in British life, as I hope it may long continue to be. Before the rule of the people in England, democracy had very little voice in the election of representatives such as sit in the other Chamber, because the franchise was prodigiously restricted. The sweetness of temper of the House of Windsor was exemplified by Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, afterwards by King Edward, and is now recognized in the reigning monarch, and is the spirit by which we have a true democracy in England. If we had not had such a spirit in England the war might have had a serious effect upon the monarchy. We have only to look at Europe: in some countries thrones have tumbled; and in countries where thrones have not tumbled there have been a growing number of dictatorships. But in Britain, because of the spirit which actuated the monarchy—the spirit of adjustment to the widening sphere of democracy—the Crown today stands in a pre-eminently strong position. The throne has perhaps never been filled more ably, or more acceptably to the nation, than it is at the present time, and the hearts of British people throughout the world respond to the message which we are going to transmit.

Through the kindness of this House in selecting me as one of the parliamentary delegates, I went to South Africa and there had an