

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

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Text of a radio broadcast by the High Commissioner for Canada in New Zealand, Mr. E.H. Norman, made in Wellington, N.Z., on July 26, 1953.

As this is the first time on which I have had the privilege of speaking to a New Zealand audience, I wish to grasp the opportunity to extend to you the warmest of greetings and heartiest of good wishes on behalf of the Government and people of Canada. This expression of goodwill is no mere perfunctory duty or threadbare ritual. It is, despite any inadequacy of my own words, the true reflection of deeply felt sentiments which we in Canada entertain for our sister Dominion "down under." We learn as school children something of the beautiful country you inhabit, the temperate climate you enjoy, and the political institutions and cultural background which you share with us. Those general ideas might stimulate the imagination of a school child, but they could easily be forgotten by the adult. Nevertheless, separated though we are by thousands of miles of water, the hard fateful experiences of two world wars have brought you very close to us. In the last war you had 12 per cent of your population serving in the armed forces overseas, one of the highest proportions to be found in the experience of any country. At the same time that you sent so many to the battle fields, you maintained a constant flow of food which materially contributed to the defence of the United Kingdom, the heart and nerve centre of our joint struggle. But it was the spirit and courage of your men which won the respect and affection of all Canadians. Such names as Freyberg and Hillary, exemplars of New Zealand valour and high endeavour, have earned world-wide recognition; in this tribute we Canadians are glad to share.

All this, however, one can appreciate without having visited New Zealand. But in the few days since my arrival I have learned at first-hand more of your qualities - your friendliness and hospitality.

So, when I say that my wife and I have been made to feel most welcome and happy in New Zealand, I can also say that Canada is happy to be with New Zealand in that wide system of world association, the Commonwealth. Whether in war or peace it is this association which binds us close together with a common heritage, with common ideals and aspirations. We have, joining us together in fraternal bonds, that unifying and stabilizing factor, the Crown, which we venerate as you do. Both in New Zealand and Canada we have cherished it, since to us it represents the natural evolution and continuity of our history. It is the very essence of our free way of life, since it enables us to honour the head of state, while criticizing as sharply as we wish the head of the government.