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franchise, with the balance of power changed from what it had been, a new path had to be made; that pathway had to be prepared. Such was the obligation of the new sovereign.

I wonder if for a moment one could contemplate what has transpired since then? Shortly after his accession to the throne he had to deal with complex constitutional problems, the like of which no former sovereign had had to consider, although his father had dealt with them in part. Later, and only very shortly after his accession to the throne, the most desolating war of all the ages came upon us. In its aftermath we had a long, long struggle to get back to prosperity. We were faced with the necessity of a readjustment of our conditions, and painful effort to overcome the difficult situation that had been brought about. In all this the king was not only the head of the state but the inspired leader of his people, the wise and sagacious statesman, the man of broad vision who saw beyond the narrow confines of the day and who looked into the long to-morrows. In the industrial centres, in the great and teeming population he laid the foundation of affection and regard which made possible the development, the safeguarding, the securing upon a permanent basis of those institutions of ours as we have them to-day. What an achievement! The safeguarding of the treasures of the past, proving that it was not inconsistent with the maintenance of the great dignity of kingship to maintain the closest touch with the people in the freest democracy of the world. Never have men's liberties been more amply secured, never has freedom been upon a broader base than in the United Kingdom during recent years. This achievement, while it has been in no small measure attributable to the prescience of wise statemen, must always in the last analysis be attributed to the dispassionate attitude of the sovereign, far removed from political parties, free from the partisanship of contending chiefs of parties in the state, and concerned wholly with the happiness, welfare and well-being of his people.

He had his reward, for when King George passed beyond, the throne was never more firmly established, broad based upon the people's will. It had survived the struggles of the war, the interneeine strife of parties following upon that great conflict; it had survived the days when the struggle for prosperity was still in the minds of the people and had emerged stronger and more enduring than ever in its whole history. And so when he passed to his reward our late king was sure that he had preserved the treasures of the past and was able to hand on to his successor a priceless legacy, a legacy which cannot be defined in words, a legacy which our own king has himself enriched by his toil, by his vision, and by his appreciation of his responsibilities.

The pathway of the future must be prepared. The Statute of Westminster has secured for the autonomous dominions overseas an equality of status with the motherland herself, an equality in every particular in matters affecting domestic and foreign policies, and all owing allegiance to the same crown and associated together in the commonwealth of nations. So far as we in this parliament are concerned, we may indeed say that constitutionally the pathway of the future has been prepared.

I should like particularly to associate myself with what was said by the right hon. the Prime Minister as to the terrible obligation and responsibility—and I use the word "terrible" advisedly—that rests upon the parliament of this senior dominion of that great overseas empire, a responsibility the contemplation of which is calculated almost to overwhelm one. Sometimes it well might be that a chance word, a wrong attitude of mind, a lack of appreciation and understanding, perhaps a desire to serve an immediate purpose, political or otherwise, might involve considerations of the greatest moment not to Canada alone but to every part of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and thus affect the welfare and peace and happiness of the whole world.

The predominant aim of the late king, as he himself has said, was to maintain constitutional government in all its strength and power. Many a time his advisers have not been slack in telling us that we have had a closer appreciation and understanding of advice given to sovereign, and of action taken by king, than we have ever had in any other age in our history. One cannot but realize that at times there have been acute differences of opinion between the sovereign and his advisers; but never was there a moment when the sovereign, after having considered and discussed these matters with his ministers, did not follow the constitutional course of giving effect to the advice he had received. Frequently he was able to modify the views that were expressed. Frequently he was able by discussion and argument to convince those who were his advisers that other courses than those contemplated should be taken; but always in the end the action taken was the action of his ministers.

His influence we cannot to-day appraise. We should not attempt it; it will be for his-

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