

better than he does, and none has as much influence in it as he has today. In his many years of leadership he has contributed much to the decorum and dignity of the house.

As has already been said, this ceremony was arranged for today, June 10, to coincide with Mr. King's completion of twenty years in all in the office of Prime Minister. He has been a minister of the crown and the leader of his party for a still longer time, and has been for an even longer time a member of parliament. Mr. King is in years of membership the senior member of the Commons. He is dean of the house. I am sure we are agreed that he has shown in that long period remarkable qualities as a popular leader of men and, in parliament, a capacity to make friends without making enemies.

In his long term of office, Mr. King has had to solve many intricate problems, some of which threatened the unity of Canada. He has faced all such situations with caution and can look back over his long career with the satisfaction of having accomplished, in difficult circumstances, many hard tasks.

Mr. Mackenzie King has administered this country on the same broad principles as Macdonald, Laurier, Borden, and other leaders who were friends of minorities and pioneers in democracy and, above all, true Canadians. As members of the present parliament of Canada we are happy to be able to join together to commemorate Mr. King's long years of public service. We are pleased to be able to do this, irrespective of party affiliation, while Mr. King is still a member of parliament, and on the day of his completion of twenty years in the office of Prime Minister. We have felt that in no more appropriate way could we honour our present Prime Minister today than by giving his portrait a place in these halls of parliament, among those of other prime ministers whose lives are a part of the history of our country.

I am sure, Mr. Prime Minister, that all your friends who are gathered here on this memorable occasion, are very anxious to hear a few words from you.

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Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. President, Your Excellency, and fellow members of parliament: You, Mr. Speaker, have given me a difficult task indeed. Of the kindnesses of all present, there are many acknowledgments I should like to make. I wish I felt equal to the least of them. I doubt if in the twenty years to which reference has been made this afternoon

there has been a moment when I have been as conscious of the extent of my obligation to others, and less able to give expression to the gratitude I feel.

I know I speak not less for others than for myself when I say how grateful we are to His Excellency the Governor General for having consented to honour this occasion with his presence, and to unveil the two portraits which he has unveiled this afternoon. It is a happy circumstance that we should have in our Governor General, especially today, one who is at once a Field Marshal and an artist. His Excellency has referred to the association of the portraits with one or other of the great wars. May I say to His Excellency that we have much in mind that he himself is a veteran of the two wars. We are indeed indebted to one who has had so valiant and decisive a role in war for lending to today's proceedings the association of his illustrious name.

We are also especially honoured by the presence at today's ceremony of the President of the United States. That you, Mr. Truman, almost at the moment of your arrival in our capital, should have expressed a wish to accompany His Excellency on this occasion, is an evidence of personal and international good will for which I cannot thank you too warmly. Your presence has added a note of exceptional significance. Those here assembled will never forget that they were privileged to see the President of the United States and the representative of His Majesty the King side by side in the central hall of our houses of parliament.

It is a source of pleasure to me to recall today that in 1919, at the time I became leader of my party and Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, it was Sir Robert Borden who was Prime Minister. No one, I imagine, is in a better position than I am today to appreciate the strain and anxieties which Sir Robert experienced throughout the years of war. No one knows better than Senator Ballantyne how cordial at all times were the personal relations between Sir Robert and myself. I am glad it has been given to so intimate and devoted a friend of Sir Robert, one who was a member of his cabinet, and who is the senior privy councillor on the opposition benches in parliament, to speak today of the portrait of his late leader. The senator, I hope, will allow me to express to him my very warm thanks for his all too kind personal references to myself. They come, I know, from the heart of an old and true friend.