

*The Ministry*

march of Canada since the very beginning of this century. I think all will agree that his services make him one of the great Canadians of all time. The right hon. gentleman has been closely associated with so many matters of consequence to our country and to the world that it would take a good long book to set out his record of achievements. Nevertheless for just a moment I should like to mention three or four highlights of this remarkable career.

When we in Canada think of labour relations or the settlement of industrial disputes, we are reminded of the large part played by Mr. King in the drafting of the first labour legislation in Canada. In the field of social security his efforts will not be forgotten. Virtually every measure of social legislation on the federal statute books was put there under his leadership. During the grim years of war Mr. King was at the head of the government of a country whose war effort was magnificent. In war and peace he strove to bring the Canadian people to work together in unity; and while he was Prime Minister, Canada can be said to have reached full nationhood. Mr. King's life has been devoted to public affairs. He has spent his days and years in the promotion of peace and good will in domestic and in international relations. I think all hon. members will agree that there is no higher calling, no calling more worthy of the encomiums of a man's fellow citizens.

Now because of the hon. gentleman's many years of service and because of the stresses and strains brought about by the war he has felt it necessary to retire from the leadership of his party and the office of Prime Minister. We know it cannot but be distressing to Mr. King to give up so active a life. On the other hand I am sure his new freedom and relaxation will give him considerable enjoyment. While we regret that Mr. King will be taking a less active part in public affairs, I think all hon. members of the house will be glad that he is still with us in this company of the elected representatives of the Canadian people. I feel I am expressing the feelings not only of the members of this party but of members on all sides of the house and of Canadians everywhere when I say to the right hon. gentleman that we wish him health and happiness. We hope he will be spared to continue, under less arduous conditions, his many years of distinguished and devoted service to Canada and to the free world.

*(Translation):*

Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to repeat in French what I have just said in English about the hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. Mackenzie King); however, I do wish to state that in speaking those words in English I am none the less expressing the sincere feelings of hon. members whose mother tongue is French.

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

*(Text):*

Mr. Speaker, since the end of last session there have been the following changes in the ministry:

On September 10 I resigned the portfolio of Secretary of State for External Affairs, and on the same date Hon. L. B. Pearson was appointed to that department. On November 15 Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King resigned as Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council of Canada. I resigned as Minister of Justice and was appointed to the office of President of the Privy Council of Canada. Right Hon. C. D. Howe resigned as Minister of Reconstruction and Supply on November 15, 1948, and on the same date Hon. Robert H. Winters was appointed to that portfolio. On the same date Hon. Stuart S. Garson was appointed to the Department of Justice.

I now table the relevant orders in council passed in connection with those appointments.

There have been some changes also in the posts of parliamentary assistants. On November 15 Mr. W. E. Harris resigned as parliamentary assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and on the same date was appointed parliamentary assistant to the Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council. Mr. McIlraith, member for Ottawa West, resigned as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, retaining the post of parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Mr. Robert H. Winters, as he then was, resigned as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Transport. On January 19 Mr. Hugues Lapointe, the hon. member for Lotbinière, resigned as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Defence, and on the same date was appointed parliamentary assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On January 19 Mr. J. A. Blanchette was appointed parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Defence, as was also Mr. L. E. Baker, the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare. On the same date Mr. James Sinclair, the member for Vancouver North, was appointed parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Finance. On January 25 Mr. Ralph Maybank, the member for Winnipeg South Centre, resigned as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and was appointed parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Mines and Resources. Mr. Thomas Reid, member for New Westminster, resigned as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Revenue and was appointed parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.