

I was privileged to be received at Buckingham Palace in December last. His Majesty recalled his visit to Quebec, where I had noticed his deference for older statesmen who surrounded him, his whole bearing bespeaking modesty and gentleness. The King seemed to have aged to a degree. He said that he had not fully recovered his strength after his long illness and a severe operation; that he was getting old, older than all his ministers. He spoke of the trying time of the Great War and expressed the hope that he would not live to see another war. He spoke of Canada, of his admiration for our vigorous and law-abiding population, and of the enthusiasm of the Prince of Wales for Canada and Canadian life.

King George had, to help and comfort him through life, his royal consort, who shared in a large degree the exacting obligations of his high office. Queen Mary's radiant personality was felt far beyond the family circle. The people of Great Britain and of the realm are grateful to Her Majesty for her devotion to the King and to the public weal. Their heartfelt sympathy in her bereavement expressed itself in terms which showed their deep affection.

The hour has struck when we must repeat: "The King is dead. Long live the King!"

The Prince of Wales, as such, is no more. That appellation representing youth, ardent and effervescent, which was familiar to the world at large, will now linger in our minds as recalling a happy vision of an ideal prince. He will now enter upon a new life, more sedate and all-absorbing. The lover of travels and of all sports will deny himself the thrilling and daring adventures which alarmed the King and the Queen.

In 1927 I had the honour of accompanying His Royal Highness, as he then was, from Quebec to Montreal, on the Saint Lawrence. We had most interesting conversations on the duties devolving upon the Prince of Wales, and we came to sports and horse-racing. He remarked that, in spite of the legend, he had not had more falls than the average, but that the terrible photographers had him in the press all the time. "Yet," he added, with a smile, "I once got even with them. I robbed them of big head-lines. On the polo grounds, at the other end of the field, far away from the club house, I was knocked down by a mallet stroke which grazed an eye and made a gash on the eye-brow. My shirt was covered with blood. I was picked up and driven to a nearby hospital, where I was given three stitches"—which were still visible. "If reporters had been at hand, the world would have been told that I was dead."

King Edward will never more play polo. His concern will be to watch a bigger game. Like the look-out at the mast-head, he will be straining his eyes to try to detect, through the mist and deep fog, the breakers ahead. Europe is in a turmoil. When approaching its problems, one realizes that our lot in America is a happy one, for Europeans constantly live dangerously.

We all pray that Providence will give King Edward health, courage and foresight, so that with the help of wise councillors the ship of State may weather the impending storm and ride happily the seven seas.

Hon. C. C. BALLANTYNE: In the absence of my leader the right honourable member from St. Mary's (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen), I have the privilege and the honour of seconding the resolution which has been eloquently and appropriately proposed by the honourable leader of the Senate.

For more than a quarter of a century the late King gave an inspiring example of complete consecration to the service of his people throughout the nations and dependencies of this vast Empire. No preceding sovereign had been in so close and intimate touch with his people; for his voice had gone forth at each Christmastide in an inspiring message to those whom he addressed as a family, as a brotherhood. So there grew up a respect and affection, indeed a love, that mourned for him as perhaps no other sovereign has been mourned in all our history.

It has been said that King George reigned but did not rule. And perhaps this is true in a strictly formal sense. But any such consideration is far overborne by the moral authority and influence which the late King did exercise. Authority founded upon power must in the last analysis yield to authority based upon moral influence, which, in touching the hearts of the people, commands their sanction and cannot be denied. In this higher sense we must regard the life-work of our late beloved King. And, although he has passed, his service to the Empire continues in the memory of his ideals, his purpose, and his devotion to duty.

The mourning has been universal; for the late King was known as friend of all mankind, as true exponent of peace and goodwill. In the kindred nation whose territories adjoin ours there was an expression of sorrow so warm and so sincere that it will ever dwell in our grateful memory.

Therefore with our mourning is mingled a solemn pride, which will endure and which bids us rejoice in what the late King's life meant for us and for all humanity.