

*Hon. R. J. Manion*

this House of Commons. I should like to renew as well the congratulations I previously extended to him on his having been chosen on July the seventh of last year as the leader of the National Conservative Party of Canada, and upon the confidence thereby expressed in him on the part of members of his party.

My hon. friend will not expect me to say anything at the present time with respect to his leadership either of the opposition or of the Conservative party. No doubt I shall have occasion to refer to both from time to time as we go along. I should like, however, to say to him at once how pleased I am, and I am sure I can say the same on behalf of all hon. members who were associated with my hon. friend in previous parliaments, to see him again in the House of Commons.

My hon. friend brings to the two positions which he now holds personal attainments and professional achievements of a high order, a wide and quite exceptional parliamentary experience, and, also, in other ways, a long and intimate association with the public life of our country. I am sure I may say to him that in the discharge of his responsible duties as leader of the opposition he will have the understanding and the goodwill of members of all parties in this house. Personally may I extend to him in the position he now holds my very best wishes.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to express to my right hon. friend (Mr. Mackenzie King) my very sincere and deep appreciation of the kindly and courteous manner in which he has welcomed me to the house. May I extend as well to the whole house my deep appreciation of the generous reception which they have given me on my reentrance, after an absence of three or four years.

I realize, of course, that the acclaim which I am given is not personal, but is a recognition of the position which I have the honour to hold of leader of one of the great parties of Canada. It is a recognition also of the constituency of London, which at the moment I have the honour to represent, some of my friends in which constituency were good enough to send this gorgeous bouquet of roses which stands here to-day before me.

In expressing my appreciation of the remarks of the right hon. gentleman I desire at the same time to commend his invariable courtesy in all the amenities of parliamentary life. I have been associated with him—perhaps I should say associated against him—for very many years. He and I have crossed swords probably more often than any other two members in this house; but in spite of all

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

that, if he will permit me to say so, we have ever remained good friends. I did say before the Canadian Club on one occasion that this fact probably speaks more to his credit than it does to mine, because I am rather a more rough and tumble fighter and he has therefore more to forgive.

I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I am also deeply conscious of the responsibilities and the heavy duties of the position which I am attempting to fill, and I do hope that in the discharge of those duties in this house I shall always live up to the traditions of fair play which are accepted and adhered to by those who, opposing each other in public affairs, believe in the better elements of public life.

One of the things of which I feel rather proud is the fact that after so many years in this house, nearly twenty, and many bitter fights, I believe—in fact, at the moment I am sure—that I can count more friends on the other side of the house than I do on this side. Of course, it will not be the same after the next election.

I hope that in serving in this house as leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition I may fill the office in such a manner as never to cause hard feelings. It is also my hope that while serving Canada through my party in this house I may always assist in the facilitation of public business. And—if I may express one last hope—I trust that I shall fill my position so well that the right hon. gentleman will shortly be willing to change places with me.

#### OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

#### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that when the house did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament. To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The announcement that Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth have graciously decided to visit Canada in the months of May and June has been received with rejoicing throughout the dominion. The honour of welcoming their king and queen, in person, on their own soil, is a privilege which will be shared with enthusiasm and pride by all His Majesty's Canadian subjects. The visit will be