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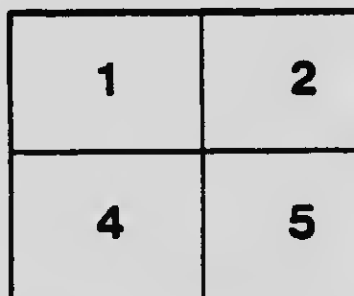
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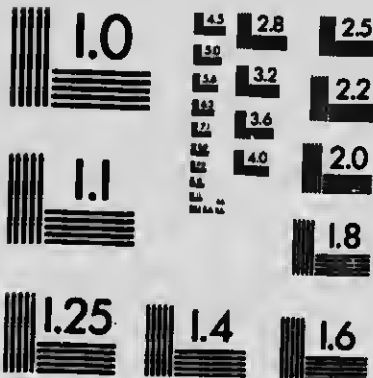
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AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF ONTARIO
BY HONOURABLE WILLIAM HOWARD
HEARST IN SUCCEEDING THE LATE
SIR JAMES PLINY WHITNEY AS PRIME
MINISTER : : : : : : : : :



OCTOBER, 1914



HON. SIR JAMES PLINY WHITNEY, K.C.M.G.
Prime Minister of Ontario, 1905 to 1914

Now Sir I have done

Coming back my friends as I have
come back by God's mercy from be-
neath the shadows of the dark valley,
I feel more than ever impressed with
the knowledge of what I owe to the
good people of Ontario. They have given
the opportunity to be of some service to the state.
They have given me their confidence in full
measure - heaped up, put down, put together,
running over, & as long as my renewed
health & strength are vouchsafed to me I
shall be at their disposal & will continue to
give them faithful service. I thank them & I
thank you who are here tonight with a
full to overflowing heart I say out "God
bless you everyone"

The above is a fac-simile of Sir James Whitney's draft in his own handwriting
of his last public utterance in Massey Hall, Toronto, on June 23rd, 1914.



HON. WILLIAM HOWARD HEARST
Prime Minister of Ontario 1914

To the People of Ontario

I desire in the first place to express my deep appreciation, and that of my colleagues, of the sympathy so generously extended by the people of Ontario, and, indeed, of Canada generally, on the death of our late beloved and gifted leader, Ontario's most honoured and trusted citizen.

Sir James Whitney passed away genuinely mourned by the people of the Province, after a distinguished and successful career, such as it is given few men to enjoy. But while he has gone from us he has left a record of good deeds and of legislation for the development of the Province and the betterment of its people that will be an inspiration for generations to come.

It will be the aim, object and determination of the new Government to carry out the splendid traditions of government Sir James has bequeathed to us, to maintain unimpaired the many great works he has accomplished, and to carry to completion the works inaugurated and the plans devised by him for the benefit of the people of the Province and the development of its resources. Above all, we will maintain unsullied and unimpeached the high standard of clean, honest administration of public affairs set by him.

The legislation enacted under the guidance of Ontario's late Prime Minister has been so beneficial, and the works carried out under his direction so ample and complete, that his successors might well be satisfied to follow the trail that he has so well blazed out for them.

But complete and beneficial as the legislation and works of the late Government have been, a Province blest with such limitless resources of field and forest, of mine and river, of lake and waterfall, and people of such a splendid type of manhood and womanhood as ours, constantly requires new

measures and new laws for the development of its resources and the comfort and happiness of its people. The present Government will strive to meet these requirements to the full, and we will not hesitate to break new ground when the needs of the Province demand.

By earnest consecration to the interests of the people, by the efficient discharge of our trusteeship, and by wise and progressive legislation suited to the needs of this much-favored Province, we hope to retain the confidence, respect and support of the people of Ontario which were enjoyed to so marked a degree by the late Government of Sir James Whitney.

We have not yet had time to give thought and consideration to new questions and subjects that may demand attention, but I desire at this my earliest opportunity, to assure the public that the policy of hydro-electric development inaugurated under the Whitney Government and carried to such a triumphant success with unexampled energy, zeal and devotion to the public service by Sir Adam Beck, will be carried on with unabated vigor, until the boon of cheap light, cheap heat and cheap power is available to every section of the Province and to every class of the community, to the toiler on the farm as well as the dweller in our towns and cities, so far as it is practicable and feasible to accomplish this.

I must not let this opportunity pass without making public acknowledgment of the great debt of gratitude owed by the Government, the Conservative Party, and the Province generally, to Dr. Pyne, the Minister of Education, for his self-sacrificing devotion to and untiring care for our late Premier during his illness, and also for the splendid public service rendered by him during the many trying weeks when, as acting head of the Executive Council, the responsibility for the administration of the affairs of the Province devolved upon him.

My colleagues, Mr. Foy, Dr. Pyne, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Duff and Mr. Lucas, will preside over the same Departments as heretofore, and the public may depend upon these gentlemen continuing to give that splendid, conscientious service in the

administration of these Departments that so largely assisted in making the proud record achieved by the late Government. Mr. Macdormid, who becomes Minister of Public Works, and successor to Dr. Reaume, brings marked ability and special capacity for work to the service of the Province.

The splendid work carried on in the past by Mr. Hanna in the treatment of prisoners and the care of the insane and mentally defective will be maintained by him, and it is our confident hope that Ontario will continue to lead the world in humane and businesslike treatment of these classes.

Agriculture, the great basic industry of the Province, will always receive the best consideration of the Government. An active campaign has been inaugurated, and will be pressed on with increased vigor, to stimulate a greater production of food-stuffs so urgently required now by the Empire as well as for home consumption. Additional efforts will be made to secure for the consumer the products of the farm without any unnecessary advancement in price over that obtained by the producer.

The work of developing our great heritage in Northern Ontario will proceed with added zeal and energy.

Education, alike primary and secondary and in its higher branches, will receive the same careful attention as in the past, and no effort will be spared to equip in the best manner possible our boys and girls with that knowledge that will best fit them for the battle of life.

The management of our finances at this trying time in the financial history of the world will receive most thoughtful care and consideration. Stock is now being taken of the value of our natural resources, particularly our timber, from which a very substantial portion of our revenue has been derived in the past, and it is expected at an early date we will have as complete information as possible with reference to the natural resources of the Province, so that we may be the better able to determine the value of these resources from a revenue-producing standpoint for the future, and the best means of conserving



and dealing with them so as to secure the most beneficial results, as well for ourselves as those who come after us.

The welfare, comfort and happiness of the people will always have our care and consideration, and all such measures will be taken and legislation enacted as circumstances may require and experience and investigation commend for the social and moral welfare of all classes of our citizens.

We will feel it our duty to aid the Motherland in whatever way we properly can while she is engaged in her present titanic struggle on behalf of humanity.

And we will do all in our power to stimulate trade and to minimize so far as we can the suffering caused by unemployment.

Conscious of our many failings and of our liability to err, we will give to the service of our Province the very best that is in us, following the light of duty, as we see it, with singleness of purpose, seeking such commendation and support as duty, faithfully done to the best of our ability, may merit.

Just a personal word in conclusion. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity I have been given of serving my native Province, of which I will endeavor to prove worthy, and I am thankful for the many evidences of confidence and support that I am receiving daily from all sources.

Yours sincerely

H. H. Heusch



