

To The Right Honourable
The Lord Tweedsmuir
G.C.M.G., C.H., Governor General of Canada

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

It is my proud privilege to extend to you the hearty congratulations of the Government and people of Canada upon your having been selected by His Majesty King George V as His Majesty's representative in Canada, and upon your having today assumed the duties and responsibilities of this high office.

On behalf of the Government and people of Canada, it is also my privilege to extend to Lady Tweedsmuir and yourself, and to the members of your family, the warmest of welcomes to our country.

It is a delight to us to welcome, in Canada's newly appointed Governor General, one who is already well and widely known throughout our Dominion, and one who is the personal friend or acquaintance of a very large number of its citizens. Many are the features and achievements in your distinguished career which afford, to one and all, the sense of near approach and close contact with Your Excellency.

Son of a Scottish manse, born, not to great wealth nor ancient title, though possessed today of the best that both can bring, your character and achievements are the expression of loyalty to ancient virtues and traditions. Student of a great University, and honoured by seats of learning in many lands, you have shown wherein industry, integrity and ability are the surest and most honourable paths to high recognition. Soldier in the Great War, you have been a comrade in arms with many in Canada who, like yourself, have found in valour and in sacrifice a worthy passport to enduring fame. Statesman in the Halls of Westminster, you have shared in the making of a nation's laws in a manner which has confirmed the truth that the art of government is a peculiar genius of the British peoples. As His Grace, the Lord High Commissioner, you were highly honoured in being chosen by King George as His Majesty's representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, an honour which, with other associations and interests of your life, enabled you, in this year of His Majesty's Silver Jubilee, to write and to speak, as one with authority of The King's Grace.

To the services and to the offices of Church and State, with which your life has been so intimately and so splendidly identified, you have brought a high courage and a lofty idealism which have illumined the path of your endeavours, and have won for you the admiration and great regard of men and women in many lands, and in all walks of life.

Your Excellency will perhaps forgive me, if, having made mention of your having been chosen by the King, on more than one occasion, and honoured by your Sovereign in other ways, I venture to add that it is as John Buchan, the Commoner, chosen to represent the Crown in other spheres, that you will find your warmest, and your abiding place in the hearts of the Canadian people. In your aristocracy of mind and spirit, in your wealth of imagination, you have been a familiar friend in many a Canadian home for many a year. You have been a solace to lonely souls in lonely places; a source of pleasurable recreation to old and young; an incentive to noble living, as well as to thrilling adventure and stirring romance. Poetry, History, Biography, Fiction, much that you have achieved in these fields, has long been known to us; and we welcome the mind that created these contributions to the thoughts and literature of our times. We believe that in Canada you will find, in our every day life, many sagas of adventure, of romance and of heroism not surpassed in any land.

From the days of Cartier and Champlain, the story of Canada has been an epic of heroic deeds, of endurance, and of high achievement. This epic is still in the making, and nowhere more than on the remote frontiers of our vast Dominion. It will be an inspiration to you to learn of it, and our pride to disclose it to you. Is it too much for us to hope that your genius may even serve to reveal us to ourselves, in that larger perspective which scholarship and a wide understanding alone can give? It is our full expectation that such will prove to be but one of the many fruits of Your Excellency's sojourn in Canada.

May I conclude by saying that what, above all else, my colleagues and I welcome in Your Excellency's coming to Canada, is the assistance which we know we shall derive from your wide knowledge, wealth of experience, and great understanding, in dealing with the human and world problems with which, in the fields of industrial and international relations, our own and other countries are faced. We know that in Your Excellency we have one who truly loves his fellow men, and who has a place in his heart, warmer than any other, for those in the humbler walks of life. We know, too, that in Your Excellency we have one who is a friend of all nations, one who will lose no opportunity to foster and further international good-will. On the efforts of our Government and of our parliament, to banish distress, and to eliminate the fears that continue to haunt the homes and lives of many, we shall be fortified by Your Excellency's example. We shall be aided, we know, by your helpful counsel in all the affairs of State.

With these few words, made on behalf of the people of our Dominion, I renew to Your Excellencies the welcome we are proud to accord to you both, and to all that be of your household. To this welcome, I join our best of wishes for the service and happiness of the years of your sojourn in Canada.

November 2nd, 1935

W. L. Mackenzie King

Prime Minister