

*THE*  
*CANADIAN CLUB*  
*OF TORONTO*

*ADDRESSES 1912-13*

*A Special Luncheon.*

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA.

**H**IS Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught, was graciously pleased to be the Club's guest at a special luncheon held in the King Edward Hotel, on Monday, October 21st.

Amongst the other guests present were: Viscount Milner, His Honour, Sir John M. Gibson, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Sir James Whitney, Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., Bishop Sweeny, Hon. Dr. R. A. Pyne, Sir Edmund Walker, Col. H. C. Lowther, Major Caldwell, Mr. J. S. Willison, Sir Henry Pellatt, Sir George W. Ross, Mayor Geary, Sir Thomas Lipton, Mr. Æmilius Jarvis, Major Neill, Mr. D. R. Wilkie, Mr. R. S. Gourlay and Mr. T. A. Russell.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, the President, Dr. A. H. U. Colquhoun, gave the toast to the King which was enthusiastically drunk. The President then said:—

"This is in one sense an ordinary meeting of the Canadian Club, but it will always be one of the most notable in our annals. We deeply appreciate the kindness of His Royal Highness in gracing our gathering with his presence. We regret that no dining room could be found in this city sufficiently large to contain one half its members who desired to unite in this loyal Canadian welcome. There is nothing more remarkable in history than this growth of the underlying feeling in all our Dominions that strengthens, not weakens,

the ties of Empire, because they feel that above all other things the Crown is the link that binds all the members of the Empire together. In our illustrious guest we recognize a member of the Royal House to which our allegiance is fully and freely given. In your name, and on your behalf, I convey to His Royal Highness this loyal Canadian welcome. And you know very well how heart-whole and sincere that greeting is." (Applause.)

The President then called on Mr. J. S. Willison to propose the health of His Royal Highness. Mr. Willison said:

*"Your Royal Highness, Your Honor, Mr. President, and Gentlemen,*—Throughout all the history of this Confederation we have been fortunate in the men chosen to fill the office of Governor-General. There was not one of all the group who did not govern in the spirit of the Constitution, who drifted into undesirable conflict with Canadian Ministers or who misinterpreted the sentiment of Canada. We have gone a long journey since this Confederation was organized nearly half a century ago—a long journey in material progress, in national cohesion and in the evolution of the Empire. It is significant that just in proportion as national feeling has strengthened and deepened the sense of devotion to the Mother Country and of satisfaction with the Imperial relation has become more active, more robust and more universal. I venture to suggest that in the continuous and harmonious co-operation and combination of national feeling with Imperial sentiment lies the stability and the security of the whole Imperial structure.

"Nowhere has this conception of the Imperial connection and of the long future of the Empire been expressed in more felicitous language, with truer fidelity to the nationalism of the Dominions, with more of the faith and conviction of Imperial prophecy than in the addresses which the Governor-General has delivered throughout Canada.

"Now, Sir, I shall not be presumptuous enough to attempt any laborious estimate of the qualities and achievements of His Royal Highness. Nor shall I attempt any display of rhetoric. We suffer much from orators in these days, and where such infinite patience is displayed some mercy should be shown. (Laughter.) It is enough, therefore, to say that in the conduct of his office and in all his relations with the Canadian people the Governor-General has borne himself with the dignity of a Prince, the sympathy of a democrat, and the fine courtesy of an English gentleman. It is enough to say that he is very conscious of our virtues, very tender with our convictions, and very patient with our prejudices, and where

prejudice ends and conviction begins is one of the supreme problems of human philosophy. It is enough to say that in all his counsel, restrained and reticent though it be, he has emphasized what John Morley has called 'the old and great sentences of morals.'

"And finally it is enough to say that recognizing the Throne as the supreme bond of Empire and the Royal House to which he belongs as peculiarly devoted to simplicity of living, to service and sacrifice for the common welfare, to the preservation of peace amongst the nations and to the prosecution of all the good ends of civilization, we rejoice that as he has gone from East to West in Canada, over immense leagues of territory under the flag, he has found only manifestations of respect for himself and only evidences of a healthy and happy union between this free Canadian democracy and the ancient monarchy across the seas." (Applause.)

Upon rising to respond the Duke of Connaught was received with prolonged applause. His Royal Highness said:

*"Mr. President, Your Honor, and Gentlemen,*—I am very sensible of the kind manner in which you have received the toast to my health. I desire to thank the President for the kind way he introduced it, and Mr. Willison for the very touching way in which he proposed it.

"I am indeed very grateful to have this opportunity of meeting you all here to-day, and I can assure you it is a matter of real pleasure to be amongst you on this occasion.

"You will excuse me if I am rather hoarse, but I will do the best I can.

"Gentlemen, I hope I may consider myself no longer a stranger in Toronto. I have had great pleasure in being amongst you on several previous occasions, and I need not tell you how pleased I have been to come again to this city, to meet the Canadian Club. You have received me with a cordiality and a sincere feeling which has touched me most deeply. And I shall always remember the sincere cordiality of the people of Toronto. (Cheers.)

"You, Sir, have referred to the long tour which it has been my pleasure to make throughout the length and breadth of this Dominion. In this tour I have traveled about ten thousand miles, and have spent the best part of three months. This tour has been one full of interest to me. It has given me an insight into the great questions affecting this vast Dominion. It has enabled me to learn what the different people are doing and saying on different subjects, and I have come away full of the conviction that there is not a more

loyal body of people in the British Empire than the Canadian people.

"Of course, Canada is a democratic country, but it is none the worse for that. We are living in a democratic age. But what a good thing it is when a democratic country remains attached to the old traditions of the country from which its people came. (Cheers.) The problem of retaining those feelings, and standing true to them while yet moving with the times, is one of the important questions of the day.

"Gentlemen, I felt, as I traveled these vast distances of your territory and saw the development of your country and those towns growing from nothing to large important cities, that those men who had been the means of creating these towns, people from Eastern Canada, settlers from the United Kingdom, and sometimes even from Dominions beyond the seas, were one and all imbued with the one idea; that idea was the future prosperity of Canada. I feel confident that with this faith so strong in them, the future of this great Dominion is assured. I feel sure that with that energy, that zeal for hard work, which appears characteristic of all living in the Dominion, this great country will go on increasing in importance, in wealth, and in prosperity.

"Gentlemen, there is one thing that struck me, and it is a very important one; that is, the importance of the education of the young at the present moment. It is in the proper and sympathetic education of the youth of the Dominion that the future of the country lies. I was particularly struck in the West with the great interest taken in education. Wherever I went, and happened to ask, 'What fine building is that?' I was told it was a school. When I enquired in different provinces for what purpose money was chiefly being spent, the answer was, the education of the young. Gentlemen, I feel this is an important question, and one in which you will, I am sure, all sympathize with me. I venture to urge it in the strongest manner possible. I am afraid the West is taking many of the best teachers away from the East. I hope the East will be able to replace them from the Old Country, for we are all one, we speak one language, we are one in our aspirations, our liberty, our respect for law. Gentlemen, if these are the feelings of the people of Canada, as well as of those of the Old Country, you should not have much difficulty in replacing Canadian with English teachers when they move on to the West.

"There was one other thing that struck me: It was that so great was the interest of the people in the country generally.

that they were only too ready to make their political views subservient to the welfare of Canada. Politics are a necessity in our system of government, a right necessity, but there are moments when politics must be made subservient to the good of the country and the prosperity of its people. (Cheers.)

"Gentlemen, I heard, before I went to the West, that I might find a feeling of antagonism to the East. I am happy to say I did not find it in a single instance. Nothing gave me greater pleasure than to find that one and all felt the same, and wherever I went, whether in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ontario, or in the Western Provinces, there was a strong, united, Canadian feeling. With this before us, I am sure Canada, under the flag that flies over us, will be the great country I wish to see it.

"I am certain of this, and all those who come from the Old Country will bear me out, especially those who have recently visited it, that that vigorous, strong sense of national spirit in Canada is something we rejoice to see. (Cheers.)

"I am happy to see sitting next me on this occasion a distinguished English statesman,\* one who has done a great deal for the Empire, and I am certain I am only expressing the feelings of all Canadians when I say that we are only too pleased to see amongst us those who have done great service to the State. Gentlemen, I think it is a wonderful thing when I see the vast numbers of different nationalities now living under the British flag in this great Dominion, to find that they are one and all being gradually welded into true Canadians. And I am sure those in authority are very much to be praised for the way in which they have set themselves by example and by universal education to harmonize these different races into one Canadian people.

"I was pleased too, and astonished, in different parts of the Dominion, to see large numbers of old soldiers of the Empire, men of good character, who have been taught discipline, and who have faced dangers, both in war and in peace,—to find them represented here in Canada, happy to live in the Dominion, doing well, and respecting their Canadian fellow subjects. Gentlemen, I congratulate you on having such an asset in this country. You have now comparatively more old soldiers in Canada than we have at home. I am sure they will be a great help to the country. Wherever I went, veteran societies came to welcome me, the men wearing medals on their breasts, some known to me personally, others who knew me better than I knew them, but all were imbued with the idea of doing well and helping Canada. (Cheers.)

\*Viscount Milner.

"Another thing which pleased me much,—and it is not a controversial subject,—was the Boy Scout Movement. As you know I am the Chief Scout of Canada, so naturally all scouts appeal to me. I honestly think that in the Scout Movement we have a great educational force, which improves the morale, the physique, and the good conduct of the boys of the country. Since I have been out here, and accepted that position, there have been at least twenty cases where I have given certificates of honor to boys who have risked their lives to save their fellows. Gentlemen, a movement that produces such a result is to be encouraged. I am only delighted to know that the Scout Movement has come to stay in Canada. It has a great educational value improving boys, and making them better every way.

"Gentlemen, I am indeed gratified at this opportunity of meeting you. I am well aware of the great influence for good exercised by the Canadian Clubs throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion. Therefore to me personally it is always the deepest pleasure to come amongst you as on this occasion, to meet men of all professions, all shades of politics, all religious persuasions, who one and all are promoting the interests of Canada. I thank you for the honor you have done me in receiving me amongst you to-day, on my return from my long and interesting tour, and to express my hearty thanks for the very kind reception you have given me." (Prolonged cheers.)

---