

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Field Marshall His Royal Highness Prince Arthur William Patrick Albert, Duke of Connaught and of Strathearn, Earl of Sussex, Prince of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Duke of Saxony, Prince of Saxe-Cobourg and Gotha; Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Thistle; Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick; One of the Most Honourable Privy Council; Great Master of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath; Knight Grand Master of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India; Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire; Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order; Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Dominion of Canada. —

May it please Your Royal Highness, -

The citizens of the city of Sault Ste. Marie and the Town of Steelton beg to extend to Your Royal Highness, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught, and Her Royal Highness the Princess Patricia, a cordial welcome on this your first official visit to them.

When it was first learned that the Government of your Royal Nephew His Majesty King George V, had directed you to accept the appointment as Governor-General of this the greatest of Britain's over-seas dominions a feeling of intense pleasure was manifested on every hand by the citizens of this country, which has been further intensified by the administration by Your Royal Highness in that high office since your arrival here to take up the onerous duties connected therewith.

Many years ago your late Royal Mother, Queen Victoria, whose memory is revered by all subjects of this great Empire over which she ably held sway, deemed it wise to appoint Lord Lorne, the husband of her daughter and your sister the Princess Louise, as Governor-General of this country, and in so doing greatly strengthened the bond of affection existing between us and the motherland, forging a greater evidence of the increasing importance of this land as part of the Great British Empire, it was considered wise and expedient to appoint a member of the Royal Family to this high office in the person of Your Royal Highness.

When the distinguished predecessor in office of Your Royal Highness paid us an official visit, Sault Ste. Marie was but a town; since then in keeping with the spirit of progress manifest throughout our land, incorporation as a city has taken place, and this, in our opinion, lends special significance to this occasion.

We need not remind Your Royal Highness that this is not your first visit to this part of Canada. Many years ago Your Royal Highness passed through here on your journey to the settlement at Thunder Bay, later known as "Prince Arthur's Landing," in honour of your visit there which has now become the thriving city of Port Arthur. Many changes will be noticed by Your Royal Highness from those early days when the St. Marys River, dividing this country from the neighbouring republic at this point, ran through virgin forest, past what was then a mere fishing hamlet. The stream then turning the wheels of a primitive mill has given place to a power canal turning countless wheels of industry; where there was then no means for vessels of commerce to pass on this side of the river from the lower to the upper reaches thereof, there is now the largest lock in the British Empire, through which passes each year a

greater tonnage than that passing through the Suez Canal. The primeval forest surrounding the then village has given way to immense industries, while the humble mill grinding grain sufficient for the sustenance of the few settlers here has yielded place to the largest pulp and paper mill in this portion of the British Empire. When it is contemplated that all these changes have taken place within this short period of time, who can tell what the future may have in store for these sister communities.

Our citizens keenly appreciate the spirit actuating Your Royal Highness in undertaking this somewhat laborious trip, but feel confident that the results to be derived there from will be more than sufficient recompense for the labour and fatigue involved, and it is our firm conviction that this journey, extending as it does across the vast prairies of the West, - now yielding their golden harvest, and through the wild grandeur of the Western mountains until the shores of the peaceful Pacific are reached, cannot but result in further cementing the already strong ties binding us to the other members of the great Empire of which we form a part, and which we stand ready to defend to the utmost should occasion arise.

We appreciate the graceful compliment paid to us by their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Connaught and the Princess Patricia in accompanying Your Royal Highness on this somewhat arduous journey, and hope that they will see much to interest them before they return home, and that you all will long be spared to remember the years of your sojourn with us.

Following a time-honoured custom, we beg respectfully to tender Your Royal Highness and their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Connaught and the Princess Patricia, the freedom of the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Town of Steelton.

Dated this twenty-ninth day of August, A.D. 1912

Signed on behalf of the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, -

W. H. Munro, Mayor

Signed on behalf of the Corporation of the Town of Steelton, -

Jas. Lyons, Mayor

THE DUKE'S REPLY

His Royal Highness spoke in reply as follows:

"Your Worship and Gentlemen:

"Speaking for the Duchess and my daughter as well as for myself, I beg to thank you most warmly for your address of welcome, and to accept with much gratification the honour you offer us of the freedom of the city of Sault Ste. Marie and the town of Steelton."

""We are very happy to be able to pay a short visit to this important point on the great waterway between the West and the East; to see your great canal, whereby you have defeated the opposition of

nature, and to inspect your steel and pulp works operated by that opposition of nature which defeated navigation in your earlier days."

"I pray that your enterprises may always be crowned with success, and in my good wishes I would also include our cousins from beyond the Rapids, with whom you compete in friendly rivalry."

The reply of the Duke was received with all out burst of applause, which was apparently appreciated. At this stage the members of the city council, and others who occupied seats on the platform, were presented to the Royal party, Mayor Munro doing the honours.

The Duke then inspected the local company of the 97th regiment, the boy scouts, cadets, the veterans of '66 and others resident in the city, all of whom were drawn up in order before the stand.