

September 30, 1937

[Victoria, British Columbia]

FDR Speech File

#1084

INFORMAL, IMPROMPTU REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
Following a luncheon in the Mansion of the Lieutenant Governor  
Victoria, British Columbia  
September 20, 1927, 2.40 P.M.

(The reporting stenographer was not in the room where these remarks were being made. Consequently, these notes, while giving the substance, are not accurate.)

As you know, this is the first time I have been here to Vancouver or in this section of Vancouver. But I am a Canadian of fifty-three years standing, having been taken to the Island of Campbell, New Brunswick, on account of my teething, at the age of three and one-half years, and since then I have been going back very, very often, and I hope all the rest of my life to be a part-time resident of the Dominion. (Applause)

With the Lieutenant Governor's permission, and this being a family party, I will tell you a story about the last time that I was on British soil. Last December, on the way back from Buenos Aires, from the cruise, we turned up on the Island of Trinidad. That morning the Governor came aboard and later we went ashore. It was one of those interesting incidents. I asked the Governor what time the Act of Abdication was to be signed and he told me six (?) o'clock in London. That meant two o'clock Trinidad time. At the end of the luncheon the Governor proposed my health and I rose and proposed the health of the King. It was exactly two o'clock (applause) and so I do not know whether it was the last \_\_\_\_\_ or the first \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

So I shall always think of that particular day as one of

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This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

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the most interesting in my life, especially as I had the privilege of knowing the father of the present King during the war, with whom I have always had some common interest, ranging from stamp collecting to navigation.

And so I come here, even though it is not a good day (inclement weather), with a great deal of pleasure, feeling, as I said to the Governor General, that we have at last come to the point, especially during the last three or four years, when the heads of our governments cross the borders just as if passing through one province and one state. I have had the pleasure for a great many years of knowing the Governor General and old MacKenzie King, an old Harvard friend of mine, and so I feel a particular closeness to the present Governor of Canada.

I hope I shall be able to come back and accept this delightful invitation of the Lieutenant Governor sometime when I shall have more time and go out fishing and see this wonderful coast of yours.

And now I ask you to drink to the health of the King.