

# Mr. St. LAURENT CITY FREEMAN

## GUILDHALL CEREMONY TRIBUTES

**DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTER**  
Church bells rang a welcoming peal when the freedom of the City was presented to Mr. St. Laurent, Prime Minister and President of the Queen's Privy Council of Canada, at Guildhall yesterday. It was the first such ceremony to be held in the ancient hall since its restoration after bomb damage.

Mr. St. Laurent was accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Mathieu Samson, who on arrival at Guildhall was presented with a bouquet by Mrs. T. Kingsley Collett, wife of the chairman of the City Lands Committee.

After the Guildhall function the Lord Mayor, Ald. Seymour Howard, entertained Mr. St. Laurent at luncheon at the Mansion House. A distinguished company included the Prime Minister and Lady Churchill, and five other Commonwealth Prime Ministers.

In Guildhall the Lord Mayor, in his State robe of gold and black, and Canada's chief Minister sat side by side on a red carpeted dais adorned with daffodils. Behind them glistened the City's gold plate. To their right and ahead sat scarlet-robed aldermen and common councillors in gowns of mazarine blue.

Others attending included the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Fisher; Cardinal Griffin; Cabinet Ministers; Mr. Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia; Mr. Holland, Prime Minister of New Zealand; Mr. Nehru, Prime Minister of India, with his sister, Mrs. Pandit; Sir John Kotelawala, Prime Minister of Ceylon; Sir Godfrey Huggins, Prime Minister of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

### "HIS SCOT AND LOT"

In form a meeting of the Court of Common Council, the proceedings opened with a call of "Order, Order." Then was read a declaration of the compurgators or witnesses that Mr. St. Laurent was "a man of good name and fame, that he does not desire the freedom of the City whereby to defraud the Queen or this City of any of their rights, customs, or advantages, but that he will pay his scot and bear his lot."

Mr. St. Laurent made the Freeman's declaration, and added his signature to the Roll of Fame.

The City Chamberlain, Maj. IRVING B. GANE, in an address of welcome, recalled that within seven years of entering Parliament Mr. St. Laurent became Prime Minister.

Walking over to the Canadian Prime Minister, he said: "Mr. St. Laurent, it is my privilege as Chamberlain of this City to offer you the right hand of fellowship and to greet you as a citizen of London." He handed to Mr. St. Laurent a silver gilt casket containing a copy of the freedom. Cheers rang through the hall.

### SENSE OF HISTORY

Mr. ST. LAURENT, in his reply, said that Canada's connections with the City were old and enduring. City traditions symbolised in a most striking way the sense of history and feeling of continuity which underlay and strengthened the free institutions by which we lived and in which we put our trust.

Proposing Mr. St. Laurent's health at the luncheon, the LORD MAYOR said that understanding was never more needed. "Those who understand will realise that there is no greater need in the world than peace from the warfare of arms, and peace of the spirit."

Responding, Mr. ST. LAURENT said of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' talks: "We are nearing the end of these meetings which, accidentally, but I think usefully, coincided with developments in the Far East which have created anxieties that, we must earnestly pray, will soon be removed."

"It has been a heartening experience to take part in the exchange of views with other Commonwealth Prime Ministers. It has also been an inspiration to meet under the chairmanship of that very great man to whom all free men everywhere will always be in debt, Sir Winston Churchill." (Cheers.)

Picture—P5; Editorial Comment—P6



Arrangements for the Ceremony of the Presentation  
OF THE

**FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF LONDON**

TO

**The Right Honourable LOUIS STEPHEN ST. LAURENT, Q.C.**

Prime Minister and President of the Queen's Privy Council of Canada

In GUILDHALL on MONDAY, 7th FEBRUARY, 1955

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On the 16th December, 1954, the Court of Common Council resolved unanimously:—

THAT the Freedom of the City in a suitable box be presented to the RIGHT HONOURABLE LOUIS STEPHEN ST. LAURENT, Q.C., Prime Minister and President of the Queen's Privy Council of Canada, on the occasion of his forthcoming visit to this Country,

and it was referred to the City Lands Committee to make the necessary arrangements.

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The Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs and their Ladies will arrive at 11.40 o'clock and will be met at Guildhall Porch by the City Lands Committee who will conduct them to the Dais in Guildhall.

The Lady Mayoress, upon her arrival, will be presented with a bouquet by Mrs. T. Kingsley Collett, wife of the Chairman of the City Lands Committee.

The Lord Mayor, the Aldermen and the Sheriffs in their Scarlet Robes, will be seated on the Dais, together with the Principal Guests and the Chamberlain. The Members of the Court of Common Council, wearing their Mazarine Gowns, will be seated on the floor of the Hall.

The Prime Minister of Canada and his daughter, Mrs. Mathieu Samson, will arrive at 12.10 p.m., and will be received at Guildhall Porch by the City Lands Committee. Mrs. Samson will be presented with a bouquet by Mrs. T. Kingsley Collett and then conducted to her seat on the Dais.

A Guard of Honour of the Royal Marine Forces Volunteer Reserve (City of London) with the band of the Royal Marines (Portsmouth Group) will be mounted in Guildhall Yard and will be inspected by the Prime Minister of Canada.

The Prime Minister of Canada will then be conducted by the Chairman and Members of the City Lands Committee to the Dais in Guildhall, where the Lord Mayor will receive him.

The Members of the City Lands Committee will take the seats allotted to them and the business of the Common Council will commence.

The Town Clerk will read the Order of the Court directing the presentation of the Freedom.

The Principal Clerk to the Chamberlain will advance and, in accordance with ancient custom, will read the declaration of the Compurgators, testifying that Mr. St. Laurent "is a man of good name and fame, that he does not desire the Freedom of this City whereby to defraud the Queen or this City of any of their rights, customs, or advantages, but that he will pay his scot and bear his lot; and so they all say".

The Chamberlain will then administer the Freeman's declaration to Mr. St. Laurent which he will sign. Mr. St. Laurent will also add his signature to the Roll of Fame.

The Chamberlain will deliver an Address and present to Mr. St. Laurent, in the name of the Corporation, a copy of the Freedom enclosed in a casket.

Mr. St. Laurent will reply.

The following presentations will be made by the Lord Mayor:—

Thomas Kingsley Collett, Esq., Chairman of the City Lands Committee.

Jonathan Lionel Percy Denny, Esq., M.C., J.P., Deputy, Mover of the Resolution for the Presentation.

Sir Percy Walter Greenaway, Bt., Alderman, Seconder of the Resolution for the Presentation.

The next two Senior Aldermen present.

Edward Calcott Pryce, Esq., O.B.E., Alderman and Sheriff.

Leslie Barnett Prince, Esq., M.A., Sheriff.

The National Anthem will be played.

A Deputation of the Committee will conduct the Prime Minister of Canada and the Lord Mayor to their motor cars.

The Royal Artillery Orchestra under the direction of Bandmaster K. A. Elloway, A.R.C.M., P.S.M., will perform in Guildhall.

The general company are requested to retain their seats in Guildhall until the departure of the Lord Mayor and the Principal Guests.

### THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

For centuries the privileges of the Freedom were sought eagerly by all who wished to prosper in the City of London. The Freedom was essential to every man who desired to exercise a trade or handicraft within the City. Among the privileges were immunity from Toll at all Markets and Fairs throughout England, freedom from impressment into the Armed Forces, exclusive right to trade both by wholesale and retail within the City, and the right to vote at Ward and Parliamentary Elections.

Most of the practical privileges of the Freedom disappeared in the 18th and 19th centuries but it is still necessary for the Liverymen, who elect the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs, to be Freemen of the City. The Freedom continues to possess a strong sentimental appeal, confers some status within the City and provides certain safeguards in case of distress.

It has been the custom of the Corporation for over two centuries to confer the Freedom by Presentation as an Honour and a mark of high distinction for exceptional services to the City, the Nation, the Empire, or to the world at large. It is the highest honour the City has within its power to bestow. Decisions to confer the Freedom, *honoris causa*, are taken by the Court of Common Council. All admissions to the Freedom of the City are made by the Chamberlain, who, on occasions when the admission is by way of, or accompanied by, a Presentation, performs the ceremony in the Great Hall in the presence of the Court of Common Council.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE,

55/61, MOORGATE, E.C. 2.

February, 1955.