

If my address has emphasized achievements, it is not because I do not place at their true worth the failures of the past and the difficulties of the present. We live in a world perhaps as full of difficulties and dangers for all countries as history records. We have also our own special difficulties. While we are attacking them aggressively, nevertheless we have still economic and political problems which will demand from our people their best in intelligence and courage and constructive statesmanship.

But in these days when so much is being said by so many about the dark clouds on our horizon, I felt that today I might review our achievements rather than dwell on our shortcomings and so take heart for the future. 1948 has witnessed some great developments in Canada, and if we build on our successes rather than on our failures we shall indeed have a land of which to be proud. We as Canadians are pleased that our country is making material progress. We as North Americans take pride in the fact that we are contributing to the development of economic prosperity, democratic freedom and social justice in a continent which is destined to play a leading part in the fight for human progress. We as citizens of the world must accept the responsibilities of leadership which that prosperity demands should be ours.

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