

may be truly said that we are today celebrating not only the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the convening of the First General Assembly in Nova Scotia, but a very much greater event, the initiation of that policy of confidence in the wisdom and loyalty of her kindred beyond the seas, which has been the keystone in the arch of Britain's colonial supremacy.

It would be an interesting and pleasing task to recall the state of affairs that existed one hundred and fifty years ago, and the progress that has since been made, but time will not permit of this being done. It may merely be said in passing that, so far as Canada is concerned, British Columbia had not been discovered by Vancouver, the great West was controlled by the Hudson Bay Company, and Quebec was under the rule of France; our sister commonwealth of Australia had no place on the map of the world, and Captain Cook did not set foot on New Zealand until eleven years after.

One hundred and fifty years is not a very long period in the history of the world, but it has been long enough to justify Great Britain's action.

During the time that has intervened since 1758, Nova Scotia has grown in wealth and importance. Her ships are known on every sea. She is rich in fisheries, mines and forests, and her enterprising citizens have founded banking, commercial and educational institutions, that are of recognized value and importance to the country at large. No country of the same age has given so many distinguished men to the literary, scientific, commercial and political life of the world. Forty years ago the province became an integral portion of the Dominion of Canada, and during the years that have since elapsed Canada has made progress unexampled in the history of the world, and in creating that progress and in shaping the legislation and policy of the dominion, the men of the Maritime Provinces have played a large and conspicuous part. And in dealing with the many problems that will confront Canada in the future, it is to be hoped that the men of the present and future in these provinces will show the same intellectual vigour, patriotism and breadth of view that distinguished the generation of which Haliburton, Howe, Johnstone and Tupper in Nova Scotia, and Fisher, Wilnot and Tilley in New Brunswick, were such distinguished representatives.