

Hon. Mr. SAUVE: Is my honourable friend seeking an excuse or an apology for his conduct?

Hon. Mr. DAVID: In what?

Hon. Mr. SAUVE: In what he is reading?

Hon. Mr. DAVID: No, not at all. I want to establish that they are wrong who contend that once the majority has spoken upon any question the minority should remain silent.

I say it with a pride that I do not try to conceal, honourable senators, that for twenty years and more in the province of Quebec and all the other provinces, I have given expression to the truth, as I saw it, with the one desire of trying to bring about a *bonne entente*, a better understanding, between the different parts of our country. I have always thought and said that it will be impossible to have Canadian unity as long as the citizens of our country do not regard themselves as Canadians, first, last and always. I do not for one moment blame a man who comes from Scotland, Ireland or England for being proud of his country of origin, but I contend, and I think I am not far wrong in this, that every man—regardless of where he or his father or grandfather was born—who earns his living or brings up a family in this country, has the duty of becoming a real Canadian citizen. I say that at all times, in peace or war, in periods of crisis or tranquillity, with regard to all questions affecting this country he should be a Canadian in his mind, in his heart and in his soul.

In spite of the present disunity in the country, I have faith in the future of Canada. For a few moments I shall try to follow in the steps of the honourable senator from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert) in stating frankly and candidly my hopes with respect to the future.

Is it disloyalty to England to say that a colony cannot permanently remain at a certain stage, that it can never be at anything more than a stage of transition in the life of its people, transition from infancy to manhood among nations? Whoever consults history on this point will see that rare indeed are the countries that have resisted this universal law. In the far-off days of history the colonies of Phœnicia and Greece proved this historical truth, and in modern times the United States, Mexico and Brazil have also demonstrated it. Animated by this supreme thought that we shall follow this universal law, and that one day we shall graduate from the rank of colony to the rank of one of the free nations of the world, should we not prepare for developing our future as we think it should be developed? I believe our country has at this time the right to look forward

to the fullest possible measure of autonomy, and that in the future we shall become a free, independent and equal nation. We must never forget that we are living history, which those who come after us will write. They will be able impartially to relate our actions and comment on our words. They will bless or curse us according to whether we do or fail to do our duty as pointed out to us by the inner voice of national conscience.

It seems to me that it is only rendering justice to those who brought about Confederation to say that it was the hope of the majority of them by this centralization of power to develop harmony, peace, and concord between the Atlantic provinces and the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and the West, that these, united by a single ambition and a single commercial interest, might join their efforts to bring about the greatest possible measure of industrial, commercial and intellectual development. Further, their declaration as regards the perfect autonomy that our country was to enjoy, which they said was determined by the very text of the Constitution, satisfied the aspirations of those who placed the interest of Canada above everything. For these, between this satisfaction and the realization of their aim to become a nation enjoying perfect political and national autonomy, there was only the distance that separates an evident conclusion from a well-propounded premise.

It must be admitted that these were reasons sufficient to compel the men of that time to wish for this union; or, after having refused it, to accept it when it was decided upon. It was an effort not only to foster harmony and concord, but also to bring about the development of a Canadian mentality, that was attempted in 1867 by the statesmen who drew up, proposed and put through Confederation. They had on their side this argument, that the union of Quebec and Ontario had become intolerable from the political standpoint, owing to the instability of the governments and the continual agitation in which the two provinces found themselves.

Thus, after having fought with a vigour and perseverance that we must admire, Dorion and his friends, the opponents of this project, when they found themselves defeated, that is to say, when in spite of their opposition the pact had been signed, believing that the lot of the vanquished in politics as well as in war was to make the best of the position created by the change, endeavoured with admirable moderation and tolerance to preserve the sympathy and goodwill of those