

the recognition that peace and prosperity are indivisible and that common interests are best served in interdependence and co-operation.

If causes for this miracle of statesmanship are sought, what better place to look than London. Here stands the Mother of Parliaments, the creator and guardian of a political tradition based on government by consent, government by debate, government under the rule of law founded on the human person. The source of its strength is found in the symbol of Westminster Abbey standing through the centuries beside the Parliament of Westminster. The spiritual values symbolized by the Abbey have shaped and humanized British political tradition and, wherever freedom lives, in the new and living Commonwealth, free men have cause to look to Westminster in thankfulness for the past and hope for the future

#### What is the Commonwealth?

What is this new and living Commonwealth of which I speak? What is this family of nations which I conceive to be of such vital and far-reaching importance to my country, Canada, to all its members, and indeed, to free men everywhere in the world? The Commonwealth of Nations is the most unique yet fruitful political and social institution that the mind of man has ever produced. Its greatness lies in its very nature, but its nature confounds precise definition. Not a political organization, federation, or empire, it has no common political master and no common political denominator.

It is not a legal or economic organization, having no contractual ties that bind its member states; it knows no concept of an economic or trading bloc, yet it is a positive and powerful force for good in the world today. A voluntary and revocable union of nations joined in dedication to common ideals and while international in scope, intimate in character, its bonds are not of the sword or the seal, but of the spirit. Institutions whose reality is in idealism and in the strength of the spirit, which are dedicated to high purpose and are in harmony with eternal faiths, stand the test of time.

To these spiritual things must be added practical values for individual nations. While religious creeds restricted by application only to specific areas and peoples passed into history, the great religious teachings of universal application to the social, moral and spiritual needs of people have survived. So it is with nations.

The Commonwealth must continue to grow in purpose and aspirations and remain volatile to needed change. In rigidity it will stagnate. A living Commonwealth must change to meet changing conditions. What was necessity yesterday may be anathema today. But in change never can it lose its ideals of its mission for freedom. Changes have taken place and are