

However, before I go into that I want to offer all the members assembled here a very warm welcome on behalf of the Council and Staff of the Conference. I might add that the welcome is warmed by a marked sense of relief in us all. We always hoped we could get people to come to the Conference, but it's a great relief to see you all sitting here.

Next I want to say a word of appreciation to the many people and organisations who have made this Conference possible. We are most obliged to the Mayor and Civic Authorities of the City of Montreal for their hospitality and for allowing us to start this Conference in their city. I must confess I had certain doubts about starting here. Montreal has such a reputation for hospitality and good living that I was a bit worried whether we could retain your attention in the face of such formidable competition.

In every other respect it is an ideal place to begin our discussions. It is one of Canada's major industrial centres, a flourishing commercial city, and the hub of a complex transportation system. It is also a most eloquent example of the way people of two races, two languages and two religions can combine and cooperate to their mutual benefit in every activity of life. Montreal and the whole Province of Quebec are predominantly French-speaking with their own customs and traditions, but in all Canada, whatever language is spoken, Canadian industry and commerce have become national in character and outlook.

Do not get the idea that this is an easy achievement. After all, the French and the English have been alternately good friends, good neighbours and good enemies since the dawn of history. So that this achievement represents