

trading nation of the world today. These two achievements, the fruit of adventure and enterprise, have given all Canadians a common feeling of accomplishment and pride, and have played a part in the creation of a Canadian consciousness.

You in Hamilton have long prided yourselves on living in the industrial heart of Canada, and the growth of this city and region have been simply prodigious. But there are new communities in every part of Canada following close on the heels of your achievements here.

Early this year I visited the great rival steel centre of Sault Ste. Marie. Less than a month ago I saw, at Arvida, in the Saguenay region, the greatest single hydro-electric power plant in the world and the greatest aluminum refinery in the Commonwealth. More recently I have seen the greatest smelter in the Commonwealth at Trail, the huge sawmills of Vancouver Island, the tremendous paper-mill at Powell River, and the sites of even vaster undertakings in Northern British Columbia and Alberta. I passed across the Prairies as the farmers harvested the greatest wheat crop yet.

I have seen so much that I feel we can almost overtake our American neighbours with our superlatives.

But other less material factors have helped to make Canada a separate nation. It is a commonplace on such occasions to say we are one nation with two cultures. That is true. But it is also true that both original racial groups in Canada have shared alike in their European and Christian heritage.

This common appreciation of the good in European traditions and institutions has made a contribution to our evolution to nationhood. Unique among the nations of America, we did not violently sever our ties with Europe but have continued to look to that continent as a source of enrichment for our own way of life. This no doubt explains why, of all people of the Western hemisphere, Canadians seem best able to understand Europe and why, I think, they are better understood by Europeans. We have appreciated Europe's gifts and we have used those gifts in developing our own culture.

No summary of the factors that have bound us together as a nation would be complete without a reference to our membership in the Commonwealth of Nations. We Canadians have taken pride in the growth of that association of free and independent nations and in the contributions that we have made to its evolution. We see in the Commonwealth an instrument of co-operation for the common good in both peace and war, but at the same time an instrument which does not bind its members rigidly by specific commitments or formal terms. The Commonwealth is not a power bloc, but is an arrangement which permits its members to participate fully in the task of building an effective international organization on a wider scale. When problems do arise that can be solved by co-operation and understanding, Canada has always been ready to assist in solving them, as we did at Colombo in 1950, when the Colombo Plan was established. We intend to try to the best of our ability, at the Commonwealth Economic Conference to be held in London in November, to foster helpful co-operation within and beyond the Commonwealth.

The sentiments which Canadians feel for this great institution in whose evolution they have played a leading role have been a unifying factor in our national life.