

theless, it can be said that we are on the way toward such an ideal and that living under this agreement has been a fortunate experience for all Canadians in general.

Just to simplify my reassuring, let me say that I have always seen in the agreement of the 1867 confederation something similar to a contract between husband and wife.

Mr. Speaker imagine a couple receiving congratulations from everywhere on their hundredth wedding anniversary. While the husband is being complimented on his achievements, on his progeny especially, the wife harbours other thoughts which she dares not express. That is all very well as far as the husband is concerned, but often the wife thinks to herself: That is not altogether true.

Well, we French Canadians, with regard to the English speaking element within the context of confederation, are somewhat like the husband and wife to whom I have just referred.

In 1867, our ancestors took up the challenge. They tried to play their part and I think that if something went wrong, in short if we have to complain about something as French Canadians, it is not so much about the letter itself of the British North America Act as about its application. But, on this anniversary, in order not to cast any gloom over the occasion, we will act somewhat like the woman who is party to the marriage contract: we will let those who want to celebrate fully do so, even if we cannot keep pace with them. We congratulate our predecessors just the same for having made the necessary efforts to attain the ideal which the two men mostly responsible for confederation undoubtedly had in mind.

We are asking ourselves what confederation gave us after a hundred years. To answer that question, I think that we should analyse the situation and ask ourselves whether our present system of government is as sound as it was 100 years ago as well as the foundation of present system, which I approve of because I have always been in favour of a democratic system.

I believe that the years to come will give us the answer to that question and we hope wholeheartedly that our democracy will grow not only in words but in action, in short that it will become an accomplished fact in Canada.

That is the wish of the French Canadian people in general who live in Canada as it must be also the wish of the citizens of all the other ethnic groups which make up our great country.

### *Internal Economy Commission*

I think that our democracy is far better than other forms of government which have been launched or tried out in other countries, but we must reflect upon the accomplished fact and be satisfied with the work done, even with the effort attempted although that effort, in my opinion, was not fully successful.

Mr. Speaker I hope the new century which lies ahead will be the century of understanding, the century of justice and the century of peace.

[English]

• (6:00 p.m.)

**Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley):** Mr. Speaker, if I may be permitted just a few moments, I should like to assure the members of this house that we in the Social Credit party are in full support of the resolution which has been moved by the right hon. Prime Minister and seconded by the right hon. Leader of the Opposition.

It is always good to receive greetings on special occasions and, on the one hundredth anniversary of Canada's existence, it is doubly gratifying to receive greetings from the mother of parliaments. I have just read the message which was sent and I notice that reference is made to the debates which led to the passage of the British North America Act and the establishment of the parliament of the Dominion of Canada. I believe this message expresses a hope which is greater than the expressions of opinion which were made at the time of Canada's formation by those on that side of the Atlantic who predicted the early demise of this country as an independent sovereign nation.

Canada is but a baby, so far as the nations of the world are concerned, but I believe her place in the roll call of nations will move on the maturity, and that she will make her contribution to the world in general.

Motion agreed to.

### INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister)** presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an order in council appointing the Honourable George James McIlraith, the Honourable Allan Joseph MacEachen, the Honourable Maurice Sauvé and the Honourable Edgar John Benson, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of the one hundred and forty-third chapter of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952, intitled: An Act respecting the House of Commons.