

to international affairs. It is much older than 1867. It explains, and justifies for me, the refusal of Canadians to join in the American revolution in the 18th century. It explains our successful search for a new road to independence without severing links with Europe, to which I referred a moment ago.

Apprehensions about American pressure also played a part in the decision of Canadian colonials a century ago to confederate into a great nation spanning half a continent. You will remember/that during the years just before 1867 the Yankees had won a tremendous civil war, and many of them were imbued with the idea that it was the manifest destiny of Americans to harness the whole continent for their particular version of freedom. You will recall the American election slogan of "Fifty-four forty or fight". These things, and the fear that they engendered among many nineteenth century Canadians, played a real part in impelling the disparate colonies of British North America, including particularly the French-speaking Canadians of Lower Canada, to join together for greater security, greater borrowing capacity, and a more confident future in independence. A distinguished historian has suggested that our French-speaking compatriots were determined in the last century to remain British precisely because they were French and planned to stay that way. They feared that if incorporated within the great American Republic their culture would be swamped in the melting pot.

More recently, I remember myself being involved, in the years just after World War II, in periods of concern in Ottawa