

Nowhere perhaps in the world is there a more completely national temperament and a people more racy of the soil than in the Province of Quebec. Instead of reprehending this attachment to the land of their birth, let us seek to understand and by genuine goodwill seek to employ it to the betterment of Canada as a whole.

I think I am right in saying that we do not want any superior race in Canada. What we do want is a superior race of Canadians, comprehending all that is best and noblest in Briton and Celt and Gaul and whatsoever other races as are able to contribute to our national upbuilding.

Can anyone gainsay the magnificent contributions to the character and institutions of England made by those Normans of the long ago? They were in their day, the dominant ones until in the processes incident to time the haughty Norman was absorbed by the slower but steadier English.

Neither can we pass by the absorptive qualities of the French in Canada who took into the family, so to speak, those soldiers of the army of Wolfe, whose names continue to this day, but whose speech and viewpoint of the forefathers have long since disappeared.

England was none the worse for the Norman—Quebec is none the worse for the absorbed warriors of Wolfe.

Now let us drop this absorption and substitute therefor the words intercourse and interchange. And here let me remind my hearers that though the Frenchman invented the ruffle, the Englishman added the shirt. There is co-operation to good purpose!

If the Flemish-speaking and the French-speaking peoples in Belgium could ultimately get together and discharge a high and holy service to not only Belgium but to humanity at large, is it outside the range of the possible to expect that a problem, even bitter problems, can keep apart occupiers of a common country and retard the development of a co-operative citizenship and the growth of a fuller faith of province in province?

We have here in Canada the opportunity of the ages to develop and perfect a national type better than has been. Is it not the bounden duty and service of every well-willed Canadian to make his country better than he found it? Can any section of Canada afford to refuse its full measure of support to the national greatness and enlargement of soul of Canada? Canada has further obligations to discharge to not only herself and to the great Commonwealth of British Nations, but to the world at large. Freely have we received of the riches of the nations, ancient and modern, freely must we give in return.

Of all peoples I assume it is rather true, including the races in Canada, as Emerson says of England:

“Nothing can be praised in it without damning exceptions, and nothing denounced without salvos of cordial praise.”