

British Crown through the Quebec Act, the Constitutional Act, the British North America Act, and the Statute of Westminster, Canada has evolved from colonial status to an independent state and a leader among the middle nations of the world. In this process, Canada has become an equal partner in the Commonwealth of Nations, the great bulwark of freedom and democratic evolution. The British system of democracy has become firmly rooted in Canada and has been accepted by all Canadians as fundamental in our society.

The great French contribution to the Canadian way of life is of a conservative character, the preservation and perpetuation of the culture of a people. Their love of Canada, their pride in their language and their traditions, and their devotion to their religion give depth to the meaning of life. These qualities of the French-Canadian character have built up their resistance to the pressure of the United States and have made possible the development of Canada to independence and greatness.

(Translation):

To all my French Canadian colleagues in the Senate, I want to extend my warmest greetings in French. I learned to read French in Saskatoon but, unfortunately, I did not learn to speak it.

The other ethnic groups who helped to build Canada admire the French Canadians for the love they have for their country and for their desire to preserve its independence and their fine culture. Let us keep on working together with mutual respect for each other in order to build a strong and united Canada for the glory of God, the well-being of our fellow citizens and the peace and progress of mankind.

(Text):

The joint contribution of the various ethnic groups of the third element to the Canadian way of life is like that of the French, in the cultural sphere with political and constitutional implications. By their perpetuation of the best of their cultural heritages, these groups have made Canadians more conscious of cultural values, out of which there has emerged the principle of "unity in diversity," or, stated in another way, "unity with variety," as a rule of governance. This principle, in keeping with the democratic way, encourages citizens of all ethnic origins to make their best contributions to the development of a general Canadian culture as essential ingredients in the nation-building process.

The contributions of the three elements side by side in our society provides the sound materials for the building of a strong Canadian nation. They provide us with the Canadian identity, a pattern which has been developing

in a different way from that of our neighbour to the south. This is brought out clearly in the address delivered last year to the sixth conference of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews in Winnipeg by Dr. Charles Hobart, of California, now sociology professor at the University of Alberta. Here are some of his statements:

Search of identity? You are almost THE multicultural society of the world and this is your identity. It is the contribution you as Canadians have to make to the world. This system of multiculturalism has now worked for almost 100 years and you should be missionaries in this type of a cause.

In his opinion the Canadian system of multiculturalism has obvious advantages over the American melting-pot concept which produces,

A mixture in which there is loss of identity and peculiar genius. In the long run multiculturalism beats the melting-pot idea all to hell.

A more emphatic statement could not be made by any American.

Canadian leaders have also expressed the same idea. Here is a statement of the late Dr. Sidney Smith, former president of the University of Manitoba and the University of Toronto, when he was Secretary of State for External Affairs:

The present population of Canada is roughly, one-third of Anglo-Saxon stock, one-third of French stock and one-third of many other racial groups. There is no Canadian race. We have never had a melting-pot policy toward newcomers. We have never tried to fashion them into one, and only one, mould. Rather we have rejoiced in and we have been strengthened by their special contributions.

There were also leaders in the past who could foresee the shape of things to come. A great architect of Canada, Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier, under whose administration the Prairies were peopled by various groups of the third element, left, some 60 years ago, the following message for future generations:

I have visited in England one of those models of Gothic architecture which the hand of genius, guided by an unerring faith, has moulded into a harmonious whole. This cathedral is made of marble, oak and granite. It is the image of the nation I would like to see Canada become. For here, I want the marble to remain the marble; the granite to remain the granite; the oak to remain the oak;