

Our Own Land

of Easter morning, but the dreaded spectres of religious bitterness and old country partyism and factionalism. We are sons of this great Dominion—great now, and greater in its possibilities—bound indeed by ties of kinship and love to Great Britain and Ireland, but, while Canada is a daughter in the house of a queen, she is mistress in her own. I remember, when civil war rent asunder our neighboring republic, the national cry of the north was, "The Union must and shall be preserved." The voice was heard from California to Maine and from the northern confines of Minnesota to Kentucky. It was a cry that never died during that fierce struggle of brother against brother, it steeled the army of the north in combat and was never hushed till it was merged in the great shout of victory. So be it with us today and for all time. "The Dominion shall and must be preserved." As a constitutionally united people, we have not yet entered our fortieth year and still at the marvellous exhibition of art and science, of industry and education, now open in the social capital of the world, we have captured, in open competition with the nations of the earth, the Grand Prix—the great national prize for education, first honors for our mineral exhibit, twenty-two medals of the first class, thirty-two of the second, and silver and bronze medals innumerable.

Now let us briefly review our history that we may take courage from the past, and like the Schemetic seers of old, rejoice in the victories of the future.

Our country has not yet an existence of three hundred years and indeed one hundred and fifty years of these were practically more years of exploration than settlement. The French period was one of colonization and settlement. It began with a shipful of immigrants in the beginning of the seventeenth century and ended with a colony of about seventy thousand souls in the middle of the last century.

SPEECH of DEAN HARRIS, delivered at the "OLD BOYS" Meeting
at Beamsville, Ontario, Monday, September 3rd, 1900