

CANADA FIFTY YEARS OLD.

NO more inspiring message could be given the people of Canada on our 50th anniversary than the words spoken by the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, on Dominion Day, on the historic occasion of the formal dedication of the new and stately Parliament Buildings as a memorial to the Fathers of Confederation and to the valour of our Canadian soldiers at the front.

Those who spoke on this occasion were His Highness, The Duke of Devonshire, the Right Honourable Sir Robert Borden and the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

We quote herewith Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech on this occasion:

Fifty years ago the fathers of Confederation conceived and carried out the idea of joining together the scattered British colonies in the northern part of the American continent and uniting them in the principles of democratic government. It was a bold and new experiment. Many doubted its success but events had more than justified expectations. It was a new chapter in colonial history, a new page in British constitution.

It was the Nemesis of fate that the present occasion, which might be one of rejoicing, coincided with the saddest period in the history of Canada and the Empire, now under the shadow of war, into which had been thrown all her forces for the defence of her principles and ideals. In times of peace, the day would be one of universal rejoicing, with flags and bunting on every street and jubilation prevalent in every corner of the land, with the exuberance of overflowing hearts. But the gathering was not one of rejoicing. There were too many homes in mourning, too many others where the people lived in fear of the coming of sad news from the front, telling of the death of a loved one on the battle-front. The assemblage was in commemoration of the day and for the purpose of testifying once more the country's gratification and gratitude and admiration to those great men who carried out confederation, whom we delighted in naming fathers. They were men of broad vision, not limited to the horizon of the original four colonies. They had cast their eyes far beyond, over all the continent, from the tempestuous shores of the Atlantic, over lake and mountain, to the broad Pacific. What was their dream in 1867—confederation of all Canada—was an accomplished fact in 1917. New provinces had arisen out of the wilderness. To-day the Dominion embraced and comprised the whole of the continent. Distances had been overcome by railways until the two oceans had been brought nearer to each other than either was from the great lakes and had made accessible those new territories with their vast possibilities in production, mining and fishing. To these new territories Canada had invited the people of the nations of the world, had shared with them her lands. The only condition was that they swear allegiance to the King of England, the King of Canada, and that they should be true to Canada, true Canadians.

The men of 1867 had built far better than they imagined. Their example had been emulated all over the Empire, to Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, where scattered colonies had been made nations.

All these countries, in all latitudes, from the Northern Star to the Southern Cross, had been joined together in the intangible bonds of British unity. It was not a conglomeration of races held together by the iron rod of despotic rule, but, as in the happy words of General Smuts: "A commonwealth of free and open colonies." Looking back, the phenomenal progress and growth of law, order, prosperity and freedom was due to the work of the men of 1867. If more was to be said, the extraordinary development of British institutions never shone so conspicuously or so brilliantly as on the sad day we are passing through. When in 1914 Britain, seeing treat-

ies dishonoured, had accepted war, from that moment all her colonies had been behind her, for it was realized that if treaties were to be treated with impunity then civilization was at an end. The colonies did it spontaneously, willingly, voluntarily, in the full majesty of their legislative freedom. This could all be traced back to the men of 1867.

Looking back on the events of fifty years, it could be said that Canada had just cause for pride in the achievements of Confederation. Yet no one could say that Confederation had realized all hoped for it at the time. Much had been done; much more remained to be done. But nothing was to be feared if the Canadian people held sacred the principles of justice, tolerance and broad human sympathy, and if they always maintained to the front those ideals and used them as beacons to guide the nation in its vicissitudes. There would be storms—it was folly to hope otherwise—but they would be weathered if the people remained true to the faith and if their courage was equal to all emergencies.

QUEBEC AND RECRUITING.

SPEAKING in the House of Commons on Wednesday, June 20th, Mr. W. S. Middlebro, Conservative Member for North Grey, Ontario, gave a list of figures with respect to recruiting in the various provinces throughout the Dominion. This list gives the number of men enlisted and the percentages of enlistment of the total population in each Province, and is as follows:

Province	Population	Number recruited	Per cent of total population
Quebec	2,003,712	44,000	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Prince Edward Island	93,728	2,700	2 $\frac{7}{8}$
New Brunswick	351,889	17,500	5
Ontario	2,523,074	168,300	6 $\frac{2}{3}$
British Columbia	392,466	39,200	10
Alberta	374,663	35,000	9 $\frac{1}{3}$
Manitoba and Saskatchewan	948,046	79,500	6 $\frac{2}{3}$
Nova Scotia	492,330	22,300	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

In the June issue of the Canadian Liberal Monthly a statement was issued showing the number of British Born (born in the British Isles) and also giving the percentages of native born in six of the nine provinces of the Dominion. We reproduce these figures which are as follows:

	British born (born in British Isles.)	Percentage to Native Born.
Quebec	68,000	3.7
Ontario	349,000	17.
Manitoba	91,000	34.
Saskatchewan	77,000	30.
Alberta	66,000	40.
British Columbia	107,000	63.

A careful study of these two tables proves that in every province where there is a large percentage of British-born (born in British Isles) enlistments for our Canadian Expeditionary Forces have been good. In fact, these figures prove conclusively the more "British Born" the greater were the enlistments.