

Those economists who claim that Canada, due to its topography, is destined to be engulfed in the great American maelstrom, have never reckoned with the philosophy of history or the potential value of the human element. Is it not a fact that the greatest empires originated in small towns, such as Athens and Rome of old, or in small countries such as England and Japan in modern times? We know that the secret of the greatness of those empires lies principally in the initiative, the wisdom and the dynamic quality of their people. We have therefore some justification for having an unshakeable faith in the future of Canada. And if Canada is to survive, she needs her own flag.

Since I am from Quebec, I may be allowed to state, without false pride, that the people of my province are as determined as any to see that no other province outdistances them on the road to progress and in the development of our common country.

I should like to convince honourable senators, who so nobly represent the other parts of Canada that the people of Quebec are not inspired by any sensitive and meddlesome egotism but rather by a commendable spirit of emulation. Their only ambition is to secure their just share of prosperity and freedom in this land of ours. Do not therefore, be so rash as to judge them on appearances alone. You need not fear that my remarks on this subject will follow the pattern of a speech delivered by a certain peasant of the Danube region to the Roman Senate, under the reign of Marcus Aurelius. However I would point out to you that if only a small number of people from my province occupy key positions in the public service and industry, it is not due to any incompetency on their part. We must look elsewhere to find the cause. I feel that were we to make an inventory in Canada of our experts in science, literature and art, Quebec would be in a position to say with Father Mauray, who said, when asked what he thought of himself: "When I judge, not much; but when I compare, a great deal."

Therefore, I say to the other provinces: When you look at Quebec, your elder sister, please do so, with the naked eye, and you will find her kind and sympathetic, and her faults will appear to you as just average and perfectly bearable. If, on the contrary, you persist in using a magnifying glass to hunt for the mote in her eye, she will feel aggrieved and will be tempted to hold aloof.

I should be quite surprised if she retorted by requesting you to remove first the beam from your own eye, because she is naturally charitable. Motherless since her early child-

hood, brought up in adversity, she has shaped for herself a character of patience, tolerance and tenacity, and now that the great Canadian family has reached its maturity, she is quite willing to play the part of eldest daughter who cannot be dispensed with by the other provinces without injury to themselves.

On her part, the province of Quebec is fully conscious of the importance of her sister-provinces. We are well aware that, from a material and cultural standpoint, the provinces complement each other and form an inseparable entity, of which the new flag will be the sublime emblem. Under that flag, every Canadian will be happy to live and in its defence he will ever be willing and proud to give his life.

Before I conclude my remarks, may I say that it is fitting and proper that we should give thanks to Divine Providence for having granted us victory over the forces of evil; and we Canadians—those of us who can rise above political considerations—owe the Creator a particular gratitude for having, through the people's will, "vox populi, vox Dei," placed and maintained in the leadership of this country a true statesman. Through his courage, his prudence and his insight he has succeeded in overcoming difficulties, obstacles and pitfalls both within and without. He was able to surround himself with men of unquestioned ability and bring the ship of state safely to port despite gales and storms. We are confident that, with the help of the men of good will who form the vast majority of honourable members of the present parliament, inspired as they are by the vision of better times to come, he will succeed in solving the difficult post-war problems. Thus our country will march unimpeded towards its ultimate destiny.

Honourable senators, I have the honour to second the motion so eloquently moved by the honourable representative for Summerside (Hon. Mr. Robinson).

On motion of Hon. Mr. Haig, the debate was adjourned.

HON. SENATOR DAVIES INQUIRY

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Honourable members, I notice that during the recess one of our colleagues received the very high honour of appointment as High Sheriff of Montgomeryshire, and with permission of the House I should like to ask him a question. As sheriff, can he let people out of jail whenever he wishes? The honourable gentleman from Kingston (Hon. Mr. Davies) might answer.