

Sir John A. Macdonald

need to find ways of preserving world peace, with which Canada's destiny is inextricably bound.

As we face these problems, Mr. Speaker, we would do well to remember that Macdonald and the men associated with him built Canada not by force of conquest but by the exercise of political skill, a talent for finding common ground among opposing points of view and a willingness to share these points of view and to be flexible in the search for solutions to seemingly insoluble problems.

This as much as the physical reality of Canada is a vital part of Macdonald's legacy to Canadians of our generation. During his lifetime Macdonald's stature grew as Canada grew. Today it is growing still. The example of Macdonald and his fellow Fathers of Confederation is a real and living part of our tradition. As we pay tribute to him today let us recall with gratitude his great contribution to the building of Canada. Let us honour him as a statesman of outstanding ability, and let us draw inspiration from his life and his achievements in facing the challenges of Canada's second century.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my first words must be to congratulate the hon. gentleman for the eloquent manner in which he has paid a tribute to the architect of Canadian confederation. He has dealt with the various features of the life of Macdonald, his service to his country, his powers of parliamentary acumen, his attitude toward the peoples of both the English and the French races and the other races of men who were here.

Macdonald lived in the era of great uniters of nations; the era of Lincoln, Cavour, Bismarck. These three in their respective countries brought about unity by bloodshed or force. He was able, with the assistance of Cartier, Brown, Tupper, with the eloquence of D'Arcy McGee and all the galaxy of other greats of that era, to bring about Canadian confederation, not through the means of the three leaders I have mentioned but by consultation, co-operation, compassion and common sense.

● (2:50 p.m.)

The Secretary of State for External Affairs has mentioned that Macdonald came from the Scottish highlands. In 1812, at the time of the Scottish clearances, the Duchess of Sutherland cleared out the county of Sutherlandshire. Macdonald's mother and father lived 15 miles from where my maternal great grand-

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

mother and father lived, and both families were driven out at the time of the clearances. Macdonald's father and mother migrated to Glasgow. Mine took the longer route to the Red river, by way of Churchill. It is a magnificent history that Canada has. Too often we have failed as Canadians to express our prideful joy in being Canadians. I had hoped that we would set aside the natal day of Sir John, the founder of this country, as a national holiday. Washington was the father of his country. Lincoln preserved the United States, torn apart by civil war. Their birthdays are remembered. Too often we forget the dramatic greatness of Canada. A question was asked in a certain university, "Why should I be interested in history? What about the past?" The professor answered, saying "Have you ever noticed what happens to a person who loses his memory?" Macdonald, the great parliamentarian though never one of the great orators, possessed an unusual sense of humour. I can imagine him being here today, were he able to be with us, looking at this government without a majority. At one time, in his day, he faced a government with a majority of two. "Why," he said, "it is not even a drinking majority."

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The Secretary of State for External Affairs has mentioned Macdonald's achievements of confederation and of the Canadian Pacific Railway. I add to them, his principle for Canada, that it must be an independent nation on the north half of the North American continent willing to co-operate in freedom but insisting on the right that policies for Canada be made by Canadians. That was his contribution.

I think of him as the founder of the Northwest Mounted Police. I think of him as the man who dreamed of the commonwealth and expressed the idea that the time would come when Australia, Canada, and other nations beyond the seas would join with the mother country on behalf of freedom. Incidentally he referred to Queen Victoria, not as queen of the empire—when he received the honour, the first that any colonial statesman had ever received, of being made a member of Her Majesty's Imperial Privy Council—but as Queen of Canada.

His was an amazing life. The hon. gentleman has referred to Laurier's words, eloquent, dramatic, powerful. Yet a few short days before Macdonald and Laurier had been in stern, unremitting—partisan, if you will—conflict in the house, but Laurier's speech