

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



CANADA

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 48/44 CANADA'S PART IN A REGIONAL DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM

An address by Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent, Secretary of State for External Affairs, on International Day at the Canadian National Exhibition, September 7th, 1948.

I think it is only fair both to you, Mr. President, and to me that I should say at the outset that I received your invitation to be your guest at this luncheon before certain happenings in Ottawa just a month ago today. It was extended to me as Secretary of State for External Affairs and it is in that capacity that I accepted it and that I am here at this time.

Needless to say, it is a privilege that I appreciate.

This Exhibition is more than a great civic spectacle. It is a national institution with origins in Canadian life which precede Confederation. Here before us is tangible evidence of national growth; of our present position as one of the great trading nations of the world. This Exhibition inspires a natural pride and confidence in the agriculture, science, industry and arts of Canada. It evokes thoughts of the past and hopes for the future. One of my friends has turned up for me a speech made in 1869 by the President of the association responsible for the Toronto Exhibition of that year. His name was Edwin Mallory and the Exhibition which took place almost 80 years ago moved him to compare farming conditions around 1820 with those of 1869. He said:

"Had any person predicted that in the year 1869 the farmer would be seen sitting upon a comfortable spring seat riding through his fields with an umbrella over his head, enjoying the luxury of his meerchaum pipe, and cutting down more grain or raking up more hay than six or eight men could do in the same length of time with the perspiration streaming from their brows, he would have been called a visionary - another proof that 'truth is stranger than fiction.' Although it can scarcely seem possible, may we not fondly hope that, in this progressive age, at the expiration of another fifty years the boys of today can then look back and see as much improvement as we can now see in the same length of time."

...../Edwin