

this morning, Canadian unity, and how the Canadian Bar Association may contribute to that end—the creation of a truly national spirit, a consolidated Canada.

How are the purposes of the Association related to that unity? As a profession we sometimes forget our influence. Sometimes we have not a good conceit of ourselves. Some of us individually may have but it seems to me as a profession we have not exerted the influence we can exert towards the advancement and the benefit of Canada and our profession.

The makers of confederated Canada who lived in the Eastern Provinces were men of ambition, of faith, and of vision. They longed for a larger thing than mere citizenship in a small province or a far distant British colony. They saw in British North America, most of which was unoccupied, the groundwork of a nation, in the four Eastern Provinces, its nucleus.

Ambition in a person or in a group, or in a nation, is an exacting virtue. It rebukes sordid life, it calls for ceaseless effort and self-sacrifice; indeed, all worthy achievement means sacrifice. Accompanied by their faith, it did not falter, guided by their vision, it kept the straight and narrow path that leads to successful things; it translated into substance the things hoped for. Accordingly, after great effort and after various conferences, the four Eastern Provinces agreed to unite. That did not satisfy the spirit of those men, for it constantly said to it, "Build thee more stately mansions, Oh my soul." Accordingly, the Act which united the four provinces also made provision for the incorporation of Prince Edward Island in the East, British Columbia in the West, and Rupert's Land, now formed into the three Prairie Provinces. Thus the vision of those men took form. The passage, however, of the British North America Act did not make a nation. It is one thing to plan and lay a foundation, another thing to erect the edifice and put the capstone on; one thing to create out of plastic clay the form, another thing to breathe into that form the breath of life and give it a living soul, with one heart, to the beating of which every member pulsates, one mind, to the will of which every part responds, to give it a national consciousness in which all parts of the building fitly framed together grow into a national