

with the rising sun of possible great and glorious days.

These men had courage; they needed to have courage. As they looked upon the past and tried to look into the days to come, they needed the full consciousness of their high emprise, all the courage of their resolution, all their optimism and hope, to face the dim and uncertain future and go on to the work left for them to do. We who stand here after a lapse of more than fifty years can plainly read the record. We find it in the harvest which has been gathered from the seed they scattered on uncertain grounds; in the advance which has been made in territory; in the increase of internal strength. It is a record which ministers to our pride, though it is no occasion for boasting. It tells of a past which is a source of gratification to people who have carved out a road for themselves from the rough and the wild—people who belong to a country whose proportions are noble; whose foundations are securely laid, whose superstructure remains for the generations of the future to complete in manner worthy of its firm foundation.

Mr. Speaker, as we cross the threshold of this the noble home of Canada's Parliament of to-day, it behooves us to contrast ourselves with the men of the past. We must look to the proud record which has been made and which has been handed down in trust to us. We must question ourselves as to what manner of workmen we shall prove ourselves to be as we bring forth the tools of our art and apply them to the work that yet remains to be done. Are we fitted to carry on the work so well begun? When fifty years have passed and others stand where we stand to-day, will our work bear the scrutiny of those who succeed us? Will it stand contrast with the work of the Fathers of Confederation?

Looking back over the years which have passed since Confederation, and observing where we stand now as compared with where we stood fifty years ago—not only as regards our own internal affairs, but as regards also our status as a country among the nations of the world—we cannot help realizing that in all respects Canada's position is immeasurably greater now than it was then.

But every advance that we make in knowledge of the world outside of Canada, every advance that we make in world life and world struggle, put upon us the added responsibility of higher conceptions, of stronger principles, of a finer finish of culture and of superstructure to the great national edifice, now being raised, and in the completion and finishing of which it

is our duty and privilege as well to take some part.

(Continuing in French). (Translation): Mr. Speaker, before resuming my seat, I wish to say a few words to my colleagues—my friends, as well, I trust,—who, within these precincts, speak French as their mother-tongue. It goes without saying that in undertaking such a task, I shall make many mistakes. I am yet a pupil, a very young pupil in the colloquial knowledge of French, but it is with the greatest confidence that I appeal to the indulgence, goodwill and proverbial courtesy of my colleagues.

Let me first congratulate you on the inauguration of these Halls of Parliament and on our crossing the threshold of this national edifice, built upon its old foundations, and designed according to the old style of architecture, and surrounded as it is with the memory, traditions and the very presence of those noble men, who, half a century ago, framed our constitution, the Fathers of Confederation. We have in Canada the descendants of two great historic nations, of two virile and powerful races which, in past centuries, have strongly determined the destinies and inspired the ideals of a large portion of the territories and peoples of Europe. Our ancestors, throughout the world, on land and on sea, have struggled against each other on many a battlefield; but our ancestors, more particularly within the later years, have fought, on various battlefields, side by side against a common foe, for the same cause, prompted by the same ideas of justice, liberty and for the rights of humanity. The feuds, misunderstandings, ill-feeling and prejudices of the days of yore are almost a memory of the past, and what remains now enshrined in our hearts is the memory of a noble courage, of a perfect camaraderie, of an entente cordiale as permanent, I hope, as it is deep-seated.

In North America, our two races have played a glorious part and on this continent unexplored, uninhabited, and almost a virgin wilderness, they have developed a civilization, the richest and the most powerful in the world, over this vast expanse of territory which is now known as Canada. Our two races, for over two centuries, have battled and contended with each other for mastery, and afterwards they have remained together in this territory as good friends, as fellow-citizens of a common and well-beloved country.