

and to inquire, our answer is: No, this is not a time for deliberation, this is a time for action. The flood-tide is upon us that leads on to fortune; if we let it pass, the voyage of our national life, bright as it is today, will be bound in shallows. We cannot wait because time does not wait; we cannot wait, because in these days of wonderful development, time lost is doubly lost; we cannot wait, because at this moment there is a transformation going on in the conditions of our national life which it would be a folly to ignore and a crime to overlook; such is our duty; it is immediate and imperative. It is not of tomorrow but of this day, of this hour and of this minute".

It was of the Canadian west that Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoke. There were those who, in 1904, could not see the vision of the west, who looked only on the empty spaces and huddled comfortably where life was old, and well established. Today the empty spaces of the west are filled with Canadians who have extracted from her soil, and from beneath her soil, the wealth that is Canada's heritage.

Someone has said that a nation remains great only while it has a frontier to conquer. Canada has always had its frontier. In 1900 it lay to the west. The west was conquered and another frontier remains. Today it stretches to our north. There are those who see our north only as the land of empty spaces, but I am confident that you here present will see in the north the sort of vision that Laurier saw in the west.

I am confident that Canadians will respond to it as they have responded before, and the wealth of the earth there, too, will be yielded up to them. Then, ladies and gentlemen, Canada's heritage will have seen its real fulfilment.

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