

The text of Dr. Pavlasek's address and of the Governor General's reply follow:-

Your Excellency,

I am deeply moved in having the honour to place in the hands of Your Excellency the letters accrediting me as the first Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Canada of my country, the Czechoslovak Republic.

But it is not an entirely untrodden path which connects the Czechoslovak people with this great country. It was Prince Rupert, the son of the last King of the Czech people, and cousin of King Charles II who opened from Hudson Bay the vast territories of the West - the well-known Rupert's land - and so became one of the builders of Canada. Later on, thousands of Czechoslovak people settled here after him.

And it was also the enthusiastic and self-sacrificing missionary work of the Hussite Church of the Czech Brethren, known here under the name of "Moravians", who made it their aim to Christianize Labrador.

At that time the Czechoslovak people stood, in the struggle during the Seventeenth Century, for freedom of conscience and religion and were nearly destroyed in that great fight, in which they were allies of the British people. Today again my nation fights side by side with Great Britain and Canada for the same ideals - to maintain Christian civilization, freedom and democracy, which are the foundation of our national life and the immutable aim of our policy - in the same way as we did in the First World War.

Our people at home are waging a life and death struggle against Nazism and in spite of having prepared and armed themselves most thoroughly for this conflict, they have to fight at home with bare hands and with moral and spiritual power only. They are extremely grateful to Canada for all the sympathy and assistance extended to their Army in Great Britain, which is the mainstay of their resistance.

We have as a motto in our national coat-of-arms the words "The Truth Will Prevail" and this faith carried us through all the disasters and turbulences in the past centuries. We are convinced that the truth will prevail again, not only for ourselves, but for the whole world, bringing to our common cause final victory. In serving this great aim, I shall do my utmost to strengthen the friendly relations existing between Canada and Czechoslovakia, and will be extremely grateful for the support of Your Excellency and the Government of Canada in this task.