

With our municipal institutions well established, our provincial rights securely guarded, our national government planted on a firm and broad basis, our industrial, financial and commercial interests flourishing, it may be asked what more is there to struggle for? The danger may come from the very sentiment of satisfaction we feel with our personal and local advancement. Immersed in what may most interest us individually or sectionally, and content with our surroundings, we may neglect to take that deep and abiding interest in the great principles underlying national government, that was so characteristic of the men who achieved representative and responsible government in this country.

It must be remembered that a nation is never at a standstill. It is either developing strong and lofty public characteristics, or evil customs and decay are creeping in. In times of prosperity as in times of peril, it should ever be kept in mind that eternal vigilance is the price of sound growth and welfare. It may not be impertinent at this moment, when we are considering the work of the founders of representative government in Canada, to ask whether or not our citizens give all that careful attention and study to public affairs that true patriotism requires of them; whether or not the local and sectional question does not at times shut out the broad view of the general or national interest.

Do we realize sufficiently the essential interdependence of the provinces of Canada in the work of building up a strong and enduring democracy in the northern part of this continent? Each province necessarily is interested in the welfare of every other province, and only by the acknowledgment of this fact can we grow together in common sympathies, common ideals and aspirations. Without a strong national spirit, we can never succeed in Canadianizing the different elements that immigration brings to our shores; and such a process seems to me to be of primal importance.

It must be patent to all that the rise of our country to a place among the powers of the world will depend in large measure upon the strength and purity of our national, as distinguished from purely local, patriotism. May the Canadians