

today to honour the memory of a great Canadian. There are times in the lives of nations when it is well to look back and remember famous men. Sir Robert Borden was a famous and a great man. As we have heard today he was one of the architects, indeed in many respects the principal architect, of the place which Canada now has in the world of today.

Sir Robert Borden, at Versailles, insisted on the recognition of Canada as a nation. Sir Robert Borden was, in that respect, one of those who placed the British Commonwealth in its new phase. His services to this country and to the Commonwealth deserve the recognition that has been given to him today. I am very happy indeed that I am one of those who, though not sharing the fundamental principles of the party he represented, can speak on behalf of those who, while disagreeing with him in some of his policies, none the less recognize fully that in his day and in his generation he played a great part in leading this country through difficult times and in laying the foundations of the Canada which we know today.

I am very happy indeed to have had this opportunity of being present and participating in this great event.

**Hon. L. René Beaudoin (Speaker of the House of Commons):** Ladies and gentlemen, the honourable the Leader of the Social Credit party, Mr. Solon Low, will now speak to you.

**Mr. Solon E. Low (Leader of the Social Credit Party):** Messrs. Co-chairmen, Mr. Prime Minister, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: I feel greatly honoured to have this privilege of participating in an event which was designed to enable us to pay tribute to a great Canadian statesman. I shall not multiply words nor repeat the things that have already been said, though I am convinced that some of them might be worthy of repetition for the sake of emphasis. Suffice it to say that I concur most heartily in all those things which have been said of Sir Robert Borden, as well as of the artist who executed the statue that has been unveiled today.

As people in the days ahead look upon the likeness of Sir Robert that is now on the grounds of Parliament, they will doubtless

be moved to study the life and accomplishments of this great Canadian. If they do, I am sure that they will discover something which will give them considerable encouragement.

Sir Robert was born in humble circumstances, and through his own effort and determination to work hard he reached one of the highest positions within the ability of the Canadian people to bestow on any man. He accomplished this without benefit of family fortune or prestige of great family power. It will occur to all who will read and learn about this Canadian that what Sir Robert accomplished many another Canadian can also accomplish if he is prepared to devote himself unceasingly and with complete honesty of purpose to his task. We may differ with many of the views that were held by Sir Robert Borden. We may be critical even of some of the things he did, but anybody who took the trouble to study his life and the motives that activated him in his public service must agree that he did have complete honesty of purpose and an integrity that can stand as an example to all who are called to serve their country. It is fitting, therefore, that an occasion of this kind be used to remind ourselves that Providence has always raised up good men to meet the needs of the particular time in which they lived.

I am sure that Sir Robert was one of those, and furthermore if our nation continues in humility to seek after things of righteousness we will always be blessed with the kind of men who can give us the leadership we need for the particular circumstances of those times.

May I say in conclusion that I honour the memory of Sir Robert Borden for all the reasons that have been mentioned here today, and in addition for the fact that he had a thoroughly disciplined mind, which he applied with singleness of purpose to the development of Canada and the British Empire. Of Sir Robert it can truly be said that he served his country well.

**Hon. L. René Beaudoin (Speaker of the House of Commons):** Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you now to rise and sing "God Save the Queen."

(Whereupon the gathering sang *God Save the Queen.*)