

federal-provincial committees which have been studying and assessing the various suggestions will make wise decisions.

It would seem to me, honourable senators, that along with the planning for the observance of our hundredth birthday in 1967 we should now begin to make available to new Canadians and perhaps more particularly to young Canadians the history and the problems leading up to Confederation. I think also we should point out the problems since Confederation, problems which are likely to continue in a country such as Canada with such a widespread territory, and more especially when we consider the heavy density of population in sections of Ontario and Quebec, with the rest of the country being very thinly populated.

I am afraid that relatively few of our people realize that Canada is the second largest country in the world, comprising some 3,800,000 square miles. Also, I am sure, few Canadians realize that we are one of the world's leading trading nations, and that our social and cultural life compare favourably with those of any other country.

We should also bring to the attention of Canadians the privileges and the benefits we have been fortunate enough to receive during our first hundred years. We have the second highest standard of living in the world. We have in this country freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religious teaching. I think it should also be pointed out, and with great pride, not only to our fellow Canadians but to all the world, how two races, French and English, with two languages, two cultures, two religions, have lived and worked together as Canadians, growing closer in their relationship year by year. In this connection I believe we Canadians are the envy of every part of the free world. Personally I am very proud of these relations as I am proud of our growth, our progress, and our achievements during and through this one hundred year period.

Sir John A. Macdonald, speaking in 1865 on the subject of Confederation and referring to the increase in population during the previous 25 years, predicted that the increase would be even greater during the next 25-year period. I quote from his remarks:

And when, by means of this rapid increase, we become a nation of eight or nine million inhabitants, our alliance will be worthy of being sought by the great nations of the world.

Canada's population has now passed the 18 million mark, and we are considered most favourably by the other nations of the world. Our alliance with the great nations of the

world has been sought for a number of years, and I am proud to say that it continues to be sought. To me, one of the highlights as a member of Canada's delegation to the 15th General Assembly of the United Nations was the esteem in which Canada was held by all the nations which go to make up the United Nations.

In my remarks in this chamber on January 31, 1961, I stated that the speech made by our Prime Minister to the General Assembly was received with enthusiasm second only to that accorded the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. At that time I also made mention of the part Canada was playing as a go-between, or peacemaker among other nations. That is a very high tribute to the integrity of Canada. Something else which struck me very forcibly while I was attending the General Assembly was the fact that when we introduced ourselves as representing Canada to delegates from other nations we always received a most hearty handshake and, I think almost without exception, some complimentary remarks about our country. It made one proud indeed to be a Canadian. Sir John A. Macdonald's prediction in 1865 was perhaps more true than he even dreamed.

I sincerely believe that every Canadian should be made aware of our background, history and achievements, and also of the problems that existed at the time of Confederation, some of which exist today, between the more densely populated areas of Ontario and Quebec, and those of the Atlantic provinces and the provinces of western Canada. I would ask honourable senators: What better time to bring these matters to the attention of our fellow Canadians than when we are celebrating our hundredth birthday? The question is: How should this be done? No doubt this is one of the subjects which will be dealt with by the Conference under Bill C-127. As a suggestion, perhaps someone of outstanding ability might read the marvelous speeches of Sir John A. Macdonald in this connection, and also the speeches and arguments for and against Confederation delivered by a great number of speakers. Particular reference could be made to the meetings held in Quebec and Charlottetown. Indeed, one might go further and mention the arguments for and against which were presented to the British Parliament at Westminster. A resumé might be made of these, so that one could have some idea of the problems our politicians and statesmen had to contend with in those early days.

It should be pointed out that at the time Ontario and Quebec were thinking of a union so also were the Maritime provinces thinking of the formation of a Maritimes confederation, to be composed of New Brunswick,