

Of course, we soon found that we could not get along with one single Parliament having responsibility for all the local needs and aspirations of each separate section of our community. That would have required, at the time, a measure of mutual co-operation and understanding which was beyond the capacity of the living generation. Your fathers and mine, the Fathers of Confederation, knew and appreciated the complexities of the problem, and they devised a system which they felt would work and which, for over 80 years now, has worked in a fairly satisfactory manner. It has worked because the Fathers of Confederation were realists and because those who have followed in their footsteps have also done their best to be equally realistic.

Our political unity was the achievement of our respective leaders. It laid the ground-work for our national unity and though that national unity, which depends upon the inner feeling and outward conduct of each individual, has necessarily been of slower growth, it has, from one great common undertaking to another, expanded in breadth and deepened in intensity.

Common dangers shared together and overcome by common efforts have nourished and strengthened it in all the great national crises we have had to face. Similarly, in every day life, the way we have divided and distributed the tasks required to supply us with the commodities necessary for our individual needs and comforts have also provided a valuable contribution to that end. I doubt if there is any individual in any part of Canada who does not, whether he is conscious of it or not, depend to some degree for the things he uses and consumes to satisfy his normal individual requirements, on something produced right here in Hamilton; and I am equally sure that you, Hamiltonians, would be deprived of many things which you use and enjoy if you were cut off from any substantial part of Canada as a normal source of your supplies.

Politically we have become autonomous and independent, but that only means that we have come to depend on each other and to have sufficient confidence in each other to feel that we will all co-operate fairly towards those ends which will be of benefit to us all. That is what has made us conscious of our nationhood and that is what has made other states recognize us as a full-fledged adult member of the family of nations. It has also enabled us to overcome our geographical difficulties and in spite of the great differences in our land masses and in our bodies of water from the Atlantic to the Pacific, to establish and develop one integrated Canadian economy which is thriving and expanding and to which the industries of Hamilton are making such an important contribution, but upon which the industries of Hamilton have in turn to rely as a natural compensating consequence.

Now, I am not going to say much about international affairs, although, for the last year and more, I have spent most of my time reading despatches about what is happening abroad. It would be no news for you to say that those despatches do not reveal a pretty picture. We are all aware of the onimous declarations made during the last few days and weeks by Mr. Marshall, Mr. Bevin and others and

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