

VERNMENT  
CANADA

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## CANADA IN THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS

An address by the Prime Minister, Mr. L.S. St. Laurent delivered at the Diamond Jubilee of the Association of Canadian Clubs, at Hamilton Ontario, September 12, 1952.

Mr. St. Laurent opened his address with a tribute to the Canadian Clubs on the occasion of their Diamond Jubilee. He closed his introduction by saying that "the Association of Canadian Clubs is, to my mind, most representative of things Canadian, and any institution which today fairly represents Canada cannot help but be young, vigorous and bold". The text of the speech from this point follows:

.....I think of Canada as a budding adult with the key to the front door of the century in her hand.

The fact that Canada has reached the age of majority among the family of nations is now of course universally recognized. But that recognition had to be won and the fact that it has been won was due, in no small part, to our unwavering insistence, during our national adolescence, that, in addition to controlling our domestic affairs as we have done for a hundred years, the Canadian people were capable of making their own decisions in their relations with other nations. The evolution of a nation among the nations, begun by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and continued by Sir Robert Borden and Mr. Mackenzie King, has now reached its completion and Canada has all the characteristics of an adult nation, without external limitations on the management of both its domestic and its foreign affairs.

It should be a matter of pride for us that we have been able to reach adult status. Certainly at the time of the birth of our nation, and for many years afterwards, there were many grave threats to our growth. Confederation itself was far from being the unanimous wish of the Canadians of 1867. Many accepted the union with reluctance and some of the earlier generations were never reconciled to the new federation. By 1871 the territorial limits of Canada included over one half of a continent but that vast territory was in the control of a handful of people concentrated on the fringes