

of rational discussion and intelligent co-operation.

I feel confident that we can look forward to continued steady parliamentary progress, and that we shall not betray the great achievements of the last hundred years or prove unworthy of the generous sentiments that the resolution of the British House of Commons so graciously emphasizes.

In introducing this resolution into the House of Commons at Westminster, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom quoted the words of Lord Carnarvon, the Colonial Secretary of the day, when he moved second reading of the British North America Act in 1867. He said then:

We are laying the foundation of a great state—perhaps one which, at a future day, may even overshadow this country. But, come what may, we shall rejoice that we have shown neither indifference to their wishes nor jealousy of their aspirations, but that we honestly and sincerely, to the utmost of our power and energy, fostered their growth, recognizing in it the conditions of our own greatness.

It is good to know that the British House of Commons, 100 years later, continues to have these same generous and warm feelings about our country.

It is my pleasure and my honour to move, seconded by the right hon. Leader of the Opposition, the following resolution:

That this house, acknowledging the Resolution of the British House of Commons, conveying most friendly greetings and warm congratulations on the centenary of the establishment of the Canadian House of Commons, and all good wishes for the second century of its existence;

Recalling the unflinching good will extended to it by the British House of Commons at the time of confederation, and throughout the century that has followed;

Mindful that parliamentary institutions, our heritage from the mother of parliaments, have served Canada well during the past hundred years;

Requests Mr. Speaker to express to the British House of Commons sincere and grateful appreciation for its kind greetings and congratulations.

• (5:40 p.m.)

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I join the Prime Minister in the sentiments he has expressed on this unique occasion. The message from the parliament of Westminster re-emphasizes, as the Prime Minister has said, it was in Westminster that the system was developed which we in our country, subject to but few changes, have applied to the operations of our parliament. Indeed, the cradle of freedom at Westminster gave us parliamentary democracy and the rule of law. From it we obtained the common law, trial by jury and habeas

Congratulations on Canadian Centennial corpus. These are the monuments of freedom around which Canadians stand with pride.

In the dark days from June, 1940, until December, 1941, the parliaments of the United Kingdom and Canada together with the other dominions in the commonwealth stood alone for freedom. In 1941 the nazis attempted, by destroying the physical structure at Westminster, to at the same time undermine the moral determination and power of our people standing together for freedom. They destroyed the buildings, but the soul was unimpaired.

We recall it was here in this chamber in December, 1941, that Right Hon. Winston Churchill, with winged words of power and determination, mobilized the thinking, the aspirations and hopes of free men everywhere.

These are the things that come to one in reflecting on the history of our country's institutions. It is well to recall the contribution made by that parliament in Westminster to the Canada of today. The Prime Minister mentioned it was a result of the co-operation between Anglo-Saxons and Normans that the parliamentary system, which we hold as of right and not of grace, was achieved and established.

It is well to remember the parliament of the United Kingdom gave to Canada of that day, in 1774, freedom of religion for Roman Catholics many years before it was attained in the United Kingdom itself. It was the United Kingdom parliament which made possible the abolition of slavery in Canada in 1793. It was in that parliament the eloquence of Fox, Pitt, Sheridan and Burke brought into being the beginning of representative government in Canada. Fox enunciated the dictum that the only way of retaining distant colonies with advantage was by enabling them to govern themselves.

Here in Canada—sometimes we forget it—a French Canadian gave leadership which brought about responsible government in our nation. Louis Hippolyte Lafontaine joined with Robert Baldwin in bringing this about. He maintained that parliamentary government without the crown cannot and will not be envisaged. These are some historical episodes which come to mind.

The British parliament consistently and generously protected minorities, their religion and their language. The Prime Minister quoted the words of Lord Carnarvon as the British statesman concluded the introduction of the B.N.A. bill in the House of Lords in 1867. Strange as it may seem today, it was the