

and fair play flourished so grandly; nowhere across our country will you encounter a hand so far outstretched in friendship; nowhere will you meet such a sincere desire to understand and to be understood. Too often in the past this outstretched hand was met with indifference, a smug, superior attitude, which can no longer be tolerated in a shrinking world. Might over right has ultimately perished before the sword of justice and, thereupon, is recorded in history for all to see.

In a world of senseless tragedies, racial discrimination and selfish prejudice, the province of Quebec still stands as a bastion of racial, religious and social freedom, despite these rumblings of discontent and petty misunderstandings. No finer tribute can be paid to Quebec than to have a member of a minority group, as I am, bear witness to the justice and treatment afforded minorities in that province. If distant rumblings are now to be heard, could it possibly be that Quebec has softly hummed its tune of *bonne entente* to deaf ears along a one-way street? Nothing is more disheartening to human nature than to feel that your dedicated contribution to a great cause has gone unnoticed. Therein lies the crux of the matter, because Quebec and the French Canadian have contributed magnificently to the cause of true Canadianism; but, unfortunately, too often this sharing in the construction of their country has been lost in the pool of indifference by their fellow-Canadians. Too often in the past deeds of valour, courage and achievement by Quebecers have failed to make even the obituary pages in the press of her sister provinces, whereas the misdeeds of a French Canadian chauvinist or demagogue have rated headlines. And let not this lack of interest be confused with a lack of activity, for a graver error could not be committed.

In the field of progressive education Quebec stands equal to the best in this country. In the two world wars surely our Quebec regiments—notably, the fighting “Van-Doos”, the Royal 22nd Regiment—had a glorious record, as did our many servicemen in the navy and air force.

In sport, one doubts what would happen to the national sport of Canada were it not for the Rocket Richards, the Jean Beliveaus and the Boom-Boom Geoffrions.

In the arts, French Canada has made many significant contributions to a national literature; and must I remind my colleagues that French Canadians are continually composing and promoting original, popular songs about Canada.

As a member of the Centennial Planning Committee for the last four or five years, I was delighted to learn that folk songs are

enjoying a revival in all provinces across Canada, for these folk songs are part and parcel of our Canadian culture and, I understand, will be featured during our centennial celebrations.

I read recently that when Shakespeare wanted to express the inexpressible he put aside his pen and called for music. And who can deny the stimulating value of “Alouette, gentille Alouette, Alouette, je t’y plumerai”, sung by all Canadians, with no pronunciations barred? And what about the rollicking air of “Vive la Canadienne—et ses jolis yeux doux”? Its lilting tune and words, honourable senators, are irresistible in winning favour with the ladies.

In addition to Quebec’s wonderful folk songs, a flip of the TV dial in our province will convince anyone of the lively cultural climate which exists in Quebec.

In the field of the humanities, Quebec need bow to no one. In the field of industry and technology, perhaps she was a little late at the starting post because of various and complex reasons. However, now with something close to impatience she is on the move to bridge the gap, and perhaps this desperate hurry and more precisely the misunderstanding of her impatience by her sister provinces has precipitated the distant rumblings.

It has frequently been stated by politicians and others that “La Belle Province de Quebec” is not like any other province. There is nothing in that statement which should offend or surprise Canadians of other races and cultures. But rather, before condemning those who make such statements our fellow-Canadians from the other provinces would be wise to examine their consciences and recall certain basic and historical facts in the pact of Confederation of 1867, which people sometimes are too prone to forget.

The English-speaking Canadian must stop expecting his French-speaking fellow-Canadian to be an exact replica of himself. He never was to begin with, nor is it likely that he ever will be.

If the Fathers of Confederation had so wanted it, they would have designed a melting-pot type of constitution. This they did not do, and it should be faced squarely and accepted. One step further would bring us to the wonderful realization that herein lies the road to a distinctive Canadianism. One culture complements the other and the union of both is far greater than either of the components. We have so much to give to and receive from each other. English-speaking Canadians must develop enough interest to learn that the contribution of the people of Quebec to