

of a distinguished Canadian statesman, of whom you have just spoken in such complimentary terms.

On behalf of Sir Robert's relatives and friends I wish to join in the Prime Minister's congratulations to Miss Loring, and to thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, and through you the citizens of Canada, for causing this wonderful memorial to be created on Parliament Hill. Thank you very much indeed.

Hon. L. René Beaudoin (Speaker of the House of Commons): Ladies and gentlemen, the honourable the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. John Diefenbaker, Q.C., M.P., will now speak.

Mr. John G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Joint Chairmen, Mr. Prime Minister, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: First I want to join with Mr. Borden in thanking the Prime Minister for the generous terms in which he referred to the service to Canada of Sir Robert Borden. This is in keeping with the traditions of our public service. While we may disagree in matters of policy each of us must, under our democratic system, realize that it is only in a community of counsel that the best for Canada will be achieved.

I think it is most fitting that we, on this occasion, honour one of Canada's greatest statesmen. As I listened to the Prime Minister review the constitutional development of this country I thought it was a magnificent tribute from one constitutional lawyer, regarding the constitutional development of this country, in giving approval to the contribution made by another. After all, there is that bond of union amongst members of the legal profession wherein the greatness of a contribution is at all times recognized by one's fellows. It is of interest to know, too, that out of the eleven Prime Ministers of Canada, seven were members of the legal profession, all making their contribution toward the building of this country into the ideal of us all.

Mention was made of the reaction to the attitude of Sir Robert Borden and the stand he took at the Peace Conference. It was he who insisted, following the sacrifices of the war, that Canada be recognized as an autonomous nation within the family of British nations, and insisted on the right to sign the treaty of Versailles and join as a signatory of the League of Nations pact whereby Canada adopted responsibilities that heretofore had not been regarded as a necessary incident of our membership in the Commonwealth.

After all, we judge men and women first on the basis of those who served with them. This morning I found a quotation in Lloyd

George's memoirs which sets forth the attitude that was taken by Lloyd George to this man who has been honoured today in the unveiling of this statue. Lloyd George said of him this:

Canada was represented (at the imperial conference of 1917 by Sir Robert Borden who was the very quintessence of common sense. Always calm, well balanced, a man of co-operating temper, invariably subordinating self to the common cause, he was a sagacious and helpful counsellor, never forgetting that his first duty was to the people of the great dominion he represented, but also realizing that an insistent and obstructive particularism would destroy any hope of achieving success in the common task.

While it was Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir George Etienne Cartier who joined together the two great races and founded Canada, and who had still a greater contribution to make in the years to follow, it was Sir Robert Borden and those who served with him who were able to achieve that unity and that international status which many had dreamed of 50 years before. It was only achieved in the light of the sacrifices of the war.

We recognize, too, as you said, Mr. Prime Minister, the contribution of the two races to this country. With Parliament opening today it is well to remember that in 1921 Sir Robert Borden, on the occasion of the gift of the Speaker's chair from Westminster to the House of Commons, said this:

The parliamentary institutions which we hold as of right and not of grace were won by a common ancestry and through gradual evolution and development during the past five or six centuries. The man who summoned the first gathering that might be regarded as the forerunner of the Commons house of Parliament of Great Britain as that of Canada was a Frenchman, born in France. Thus we can look back with satisfaction upon the fact that Saxon and Norman five or six hundred years ago stood side by side in the assertion of liberties that are ours today.

I think on this occasion it is well to recall those words, as this monument has been unveiled. I think all of us will agree that his monument will be tangible evidence of his statesmanship; his living monument the establishment of the principle of equality among the free nations within the Commonwealth and Empire as he saw it, and his contribution to fashioning for Canada that role which she is playing so magnificently today. Of him it may indeed be said that "he builded better than he knew."

Hon. L. René Beaudoin (Speaker of the House of Commons): Ladies and gentlemen, the Honourable the Leader of the C.C.F. party, Mr. M. J. Coldwell, will now speak.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Leader of the C.C.F. Party): Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Chief Justice, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: I think it is fitting that we have gathered here