

How bitter and difficult are the times we are now living, how enormous the sacrifices demanded of each one of us. We are beginning a chapter of history to be written under the title of self-sacrifice: happiness, pleasure and well-being are doomed, and there already appear here and there uneasiness, mortification, self-denial and, in certain cases, indigence.

That our generation should be called upon to pay so dearly for the errors that have stigmatized world politics during the last hundred years may be regarded as equitable after all, especially if we are concerned with ensuring the happiness, security and contentment of those who will follow in our footsteps.

How unfortunate appears to me the lot of our present-day youth, who, although acquainted with all the hardships of a difficult situation, have not experienced, as we have, the carefree joys of other days, the family life of our childhood, and are not even sure of attaining the pleasures of maturity. All the more honour to our Canadian youth: setting us all a great example, they are the living symbol of an imperishable faith. With what enthusiasm did they not respond to the various appeals their country has made to them. They accepted without a murmur the national registration, and to-day they fill to overflowing every training camp in the land. They realize that after all they are shaping their own future, and that their present efforts may well determine the entire course of our national life.

Who could object to my making a few special remarks here about the province of Quebec? I have at times, believing it my duty, told my fellow citizens of French descent certain truths which were unpleasant and may have appeared to some ill-timed. It is therefore only fair that in speaking to-day to the entire country I should proclaim the deep satisfaction we experience in seeing our French Canadian youth respond to the call of national duty with that same feeling of deep attachment and sincere loyalty that all our old Canadian traditions command.

Wherever you may go, honourable members, whatever training camp you visit, the officers in charge will tell you that their ranks were rapidly filled when the call was made. On the training ground our youth, although they are at an age when other pursuits might conceivably appeal to them more strongly than the bearing of arms, have demonstrated a love of self-discipline that augurs well for the future.

Our present attitude establishes, I believe, the satisfaction of all other groups in

the nation, that we are fully aware of the peril to our country resulting from that succession of triumphs over small nations which has made Hitler the master of Europe.

Possessing certain qualities inherited from our Motherland, as well as certain faults which we have in common with its people, we have too often, perhaps, displayed in the past a dangerous and harmful individualism. But there now arises an occasion, and we seize it eagerly, to unite with others in a mass movement which will ensure on our part a better disciplined effort, an effort much more apt to achieve the end in view.

We have always been a peaceful people. It would be irrelevant to state here the reasons for this. Let us note, however, in passing, that, having been taught from the very first to respect the clauses of the treaty which our fathers signed on our behalf, we laid down our arms, taking them up again on only two occasions, each time to defend our country against invasion. Moreover, strong in our belief, we had the utmost faith in the guarantees given us, and if on one occasion there appeared in Quebec a movement which was termed a rebellion, it is well to remember that this movement also found favour in Upper Canada and that its professed aim was the establishment of such responsible government as we enjoy to-day.

But all that is behind us, and if we now find in Quebec a striking unanimity of thought on the subject, it is due to the fact that its citizens realize how difficult their position would become should they not attempt definitely to achieve a stronger unity than ever with their fellow citizens of English descent, convinced that only in such unity will they find the means of ensuring a post-war period unmarred by quarrels and discontent, wherein we shall resume together, as better friends than in the past, our journey along the various ways that lead to the greatness of our country.

Honourable members who share with me the same traditions and the same faith, and speak the same tongue, will understand that I should now address in their own language the majority of those who very kindly do me the honour of listening to these remarks.

(Text) Honourable members, again in this year of 1940 we are called to meet and to discuss laws affecting our country, and more particularly to determine what can be done that Canada may remain a land of freedom and liberty.

May I, speaking here for the first time, admit right away that I feel greatly flattered by the honour conferred upon me of proposing this address. Yet I do not minimize the