

fatherland. This idea of the fatherland necessarily implies a certain degree of national unity. It will soon be a hundred years that we have been living under a system of federal union. But in Canada, the idea of the fatherland has yet to be adequately defined. Such a vital matter is giving rise to an unfortunate confusion.

For every true Canadian, regardless of his racial origin, his language, his religion or his province, his one and only fatherland must, of course, be Canada. But is our great and vast country really the fatherland for all our fellow citizens?

First of all, we must ask ourselves what is the fatherland. According to the etymology, it is the land of our fathers, the native land. I know of no precise equivalent in English for the word "Patrie".

The words "homeland" or "home" are the terms closest to our word "patrie". Etymologically, the word "fatherland" corresponds to it. As regards the word "motherland", it is synonymous with "mère patrie", which means the metropolis of a colony. For many Canadians, their homeland is still a particular region in the northwest of the old continent, of Europe, cradle of our civilization and of our homelands, English, Scottish, Irish, or Welsh, etc.

In France, as well as in the British isles, the idea of a Homeland with a capital H, the idea of Homeland is clear and precise. Whether he be from Brittany, Poitou, Alsace, whether he be Flemish or Provençal, the Frenchman recognizes without any hesitation France as his homeland. The English, the Scotch, the Welsh, the Irish from Northern Ireland each have their small homeland that they love very dearly, but their homeland is unquestionably Great Britain.

Recently, we heard many people from Quebec state that their homeland is Quebec. In looking at the gigantic map of Canada and considering the space filled by our province, many of our people could say: "Great country, small homeland". It may seem strange, however, to call a small homeland a territory as large as Quebec.

Local patriotism which I just referred to also exists in the Maritimes, in Ontario, in the Prairie provinces and British Columbia. Most of the time, such regionalism has much merit. It is easy to understand and to feel such a particular belonging to our own native region. Such a patriotism is the most natural feeling in the world. In itself, it does not lead to any conflict of loyalty to our great Canadian homeland and our smaller provincial homeland.

If I were to adopt the attitude that my homeland is French Canada only, I should then include in it, in addition to Quebec, the whole of Canada as there are throughout Canada isolated groups, of lesser or greater importance, of French Canadians or Acadians in whose veins flows the same blood as mine, of common origin and faith, in short who are my brothers and who, on their mothers' knees, learned the same sweet French language and the same prayers.

Even those who consider their province as their homeland should see in Canada at least another homeland. Still, it must be recognized that there are amongst Canadians a rainbow of patriotic hues and shades. In addition to the provincial patriotism which I have attempted to describe, there are various forms of patriotic and intellectual colonialism which, in the final analysis, favour the flag of the mother country. However, we should all be mature enough, removed enough from the people of our country of origin to give first place in our hearts to Canada and to want to give, without further delay, its own emblem to Canada. Among international powers we are respected everywhere, but we are the only country in the world without its distinctive flag.

Our patriotism must not be centred on France, Great Britain, the United States or any other country. Canada must not be content to be a mirror faithfully reflecting, in international affairs, either Britain's or the United States' policy. Canada is not a colony, whatever Louis Delboz or any other expert in international law may say. But as long as we fly the Union Jack or the Red Ensign, foreigners will conclude that we are still under London's imperial tutorship. Anglo-Canadians most certainly have the right to cherish the Anglo-Saxon culture from overseas. When the French Canadian sees Old France as his parent, his eternally young ancestor, and the great mother of his own civilization it shows but a highminded filial piety. Both our cultures, the French and the English, are among the brightest treasures of modern civilization. But the English-speaking Canadian, though he may respect Great Britain, is no Englishman, he is a Canadian.

Though deeply, intensely and passionately attached to French culture, I am, nevertheless not a French citizen, but a French-speaking Canadian.

In this respect, we have experienced a thorough evolution. When a child, I saw my relatives on my mother's side proudly unfold the tri-coloured French flag on every great holiday, as did very many people in Quebec.