

Our Own Land

opportunity to study the complex nature of our population and to derive from that study the consoling assurance that the Celt and the Saxon are fast fusing into a solidified body, to be known as the Canadian people—a people actuated by deferential respect for constitutional government and influenced by no other consideration than that which makes for the permanency of our institutions and the stability of our government. There are here no teachers of disintegration, infidelity and destruction, whose field is ignorance and whose recruiting sergeant is distress. Ignorance judges the invisible by the visible, but we have turned on the lights and the propagandist of communistic and anarchical doctrines finds here neither ignorance or distress. Whatever may have been the melancholy causes which conspired to produce the European anarchist and lead him to curse the institutions of his own country it is not our province to discuss tonight. We know for a fact that when he reaches our shores and has felt the benefits of Canadian civilization he experiences an extraordinary change, and from a dangerous member of society is transformed into an upholder of our constitution and a respecter of our laws. When his children leave our schools they are thoroughly grounded in the history, and in the principles and incalculable blessings of Canadian freedom. His boys are turned into soldiers of constitutional government, his daughters into intelligent mothers of freemen, and his sons and grandsons become the bulwarks of constitutional law. He learns that with us submission to the will of the majority has become universally the accepted faith of the people, and while that faith is unshaken no party will ever appeal to the alternative of armed protest.

This Dominion of ours, mighty in its possibilities, in its educative influences and its prospective strength of brain and land must not be divided for a house divided against

SPEECH of DEAN HARRIS, delivered at the "OLD BOYS" Meeting at Beamsville, Ontario, Monday, September 3rd, 1900