

United States, as showing that Canada, a north American nation, had seen fit to enter the war of its own accord. Since we entered the war, that unity of the Canadian people has steadily strengthened, by reason of the increasing realization by all Canadians of their essential unity and of their essential interest in defeating Hitler in Europe.

In a message issued on St. Jean Baptiste day the Prime Minister said:

The tragic fate of France leaves to French Canada the duty of upholding the tradition of French culture and civilization and the French passion for liberty in the world. This new responsibility will, I believe, be accepted proudly.

It has been accepted proudly, Mr. Speaker. French Canada yields place to no one in its loyalty to this country. To-day we are glad to think that there are twenty-one members of this house in military service of one kind or another. We congratulate them, we envy them, and we wish them good fortune. We are proud to say that of the twenty-one, seven are French Canadians from the province of Quebec. No Canadian will ever forget the part played in achieving this unity on October 25 by the right hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe). Is there a member here who doubts that this was a victory for the true spirit of Quebec? Since then Mr. Godbout, the premier of Quebec, has stood loyally for its best traditions. His Eminence the Cardinal and His Excellency the Archbishop of Montreal also have raised their voices in support of Canada's cause.

I am glad to be the first to congratulate the government on the appointment of a new senator, Hon. Mercier Gouin. Incidentally this makes five senators who live in the constituency of St. Lawrence-St. George. Senator Gouin is the son of a man who rendered great service to Quebec and to Canada, but he has earned this honour in his own right. Without lessening his proud attachment to his own people he has worked night and day to promote harmony between both races and for the welfare of Canada. His appointment will give the utmost satisfaction throughout Quebec and the whole country.

The English-speaking citizens of Canada should appreciate how difficult some of us make it for French-Canadians to have a loyalty to all of Canada. I should like to try to explain what I mean. Some people in Canada voice a kind of loyalty which, by definition, no Canadian of non-British descent can share. In being more British than the English, they astonish the English, but tend to drive Canadians of other origins, sometimes back to their ancient affiliations and sometimes to a local loyalty. If some of us

have a feeling about Canada which French-Canadians cannot share, is it surprising that some French-Canadians should also have a loyalty which is exclusive, a loyalty to their own province and their own race? After all, too, they have been here for some two hundred and fifty years before confederation.

The one common ground on which all Canadians can meet is a common loyalty to Canada. If this country is to be as strong as it can be, it must be strong on the basis of understanding, tolerance and respect by all for differing views honestly held; and it can only be on the basis of an attachment to Canada, all of it.

Do you remember what Lord Tweedsmuir said to the Canadian Institute of International Affairs on October 10, 1937:

This is a sovereign nation and cannot take her attitude to the world docilely from Britain, or from the United States, or from anybody else. A Canadian's first loyalty is not the British commonwealth of nations, but to Canada, and to Canada's king, and those who deny this are doing, to my mind, a great disservice to the commonwealth.

The profound truth of his final observation has been borne out by everything that has happened since the beginning of the war.

To-day Canada is united as never before, grimly engaged in utilizing her resources of power, agriculture and minerals, her industry and her men, in the best possible way to defend our front line in Britain. We are encouraged to do our utmost by the pride we feel in the courage shown by the people of that beleaguered country. Visitors coming from England speak of the people being happy there. They are happy because they have looked danger and death in the face and kept on smiling. They are happy because of the changes that have come about in English life: the sharing of risks and work, the levelling out of privilege, the new spirit arising out of the equal sacrifice, the new efficiency coming out of working together. The country is being literally reborn in the ordeal of fire. The sword of democracy is being reforged in England with a keener edge. You remember near the end of Pilgrim's Progress, when Hopeful starts to cross the dark river. It is an awesome experience, but towards midstream Hopeful calls back in ringing tones:

Be of good cheer, my brother. I have felt the bottom and it is sound.

That is what the spirit of England says to us to-day. It speaks to us through the words and deeds of the men and women, and the children too, who are in its front line. It finds its echo in the imperishable words of its inspired and inspiring leader, Mr. Winston