

The Canada of Today

The Canada of today has been described as "a supreme act of faith". The Canada we know was hewn out of the wilderness, often in defiance of Nature. In extent, our country is immense. Its chief areas of settlement are divided, one from another, by long distances, and by rugged terrain. Many of you who today have become Canadian citizens are well aware of this. Some of you are from British Columbia and the Prairies. Some are from the Central Provinces; some from the Maritimes. To all of us the most of Canada is still unknown.

The vision and courage of men and women have transformed our country, almost within living memory, from small and virtually unknown regions of forest and farm, into one of the great industrial nations of the world. But more than material growth has arisen from the vision and courage of our people. They have also sought, continuously, to defend and to extend the frontiers of freedom. More than once, in the name of Canada, the sons and daughters of Canada have valiantly served, and thousands have died, to save the world's freedom. In world affairs our country has an outstanding record of responsibility and integrity.