

being given a version of the Revolution, and the political state of England at that time, which is as faulty as King George the Third's Government. He says that this teaching plays straight into the hands of your enemies; and it assuredly does. Very few of your children (or for that matter, scarcely any of our children,) know that when your forefathers began their fight for independence there was no such thing in existence as an American citizen—not one. That class of person became evident upon this planet some time after. The "embattled farmers" were British colonists who fought for liberties already enjoyed by their fathers and brothers in England, but denied to them. They fought because they had English convictions in their hearts. It was because they believed in the English tradition of liberty they gave their lives to uphold and extend it. The Declaration of Independence was only a further evolution of the principle of liberty, embodied much earlier in the Magna Charta wrung from King John, and in the Bill of Rights, for opposing which King Charles later lost his head.

Few of the rising generation knew that Pitt, the great Earl of Chatham, so vehemently denounced the treatment of American colonists by the Crown of Great Britain that he was overcome and fell in a fainting fit on the floor of the House of Lords and was carried out to die.

Few of us recall that it was impossible to obtain sufficient enlistments among the English to fight against your forefathers in the Revolutionary War, and that 17,000 Hessian mercenaries (men of German blood) were sent out to fight and retreat before the outraged colonists.

We fully, most heartily, and without the slightest reservation of feeling, approve of the War of Independence and rejoice in its success. With the spirit we possess in Canada, we would do the same thing under similar circumstances, so that in our relation to that great event there is nothing to repress, but everything to increase our high regard for the American people.

On the other hand, I am equally sorry, yes, more sorry, that few of our Canadian children realize as they should do, that it was the blood shed upon American soil by your forefathers which procured the large, may I not say, the perfect liberty which we now enjoy. The reaction of the American Revolution upon the British Government was such as to lead to a new policy in the treatment of her colonies by Great Britain, which not only inured to the benefit of Canada, but of all British possessions from the great overseas dominions to the smallest dependencies of the Empire.

The experiment of American nationality, owing to the tragic circumstances of its beginning, and its huge material success, has challenged the attention of mankind, so that to you, as a Republic, the down-trodden peoples of the world look wistfully for example and inspiration. The American Revolution has been a world-wide blessing, and I regret that, in the interest of truth and good-will, our children are not better informed of this fact.

I count it a most regrettable circumstance that the occurrence of the last great war prevented the due celebration of one hun-