

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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An address by Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton, Ontario, March 15, 1948.

First of all I wish to thank you for the invitation to attend this dinner and to assure you that it gave me much pleasure to be able to accept it.

The annual dinner of the Hamilton Junior Chamber of Commerce is becoming recognized as a function of first water importance in the industrial and commercial life of this part of Canada and even by our whip in the House of Commons. He gives you a pretty black look when you suggest to him that you are going to be away at a time when division is apt to be called, but though he swallows hard he does not say very much when you are able to add that the reason for your absence is an occasion such as this. He realizes, as we all do, that it is indeed fortunate for Canada that her young business men are taking a very keen and intelligent interest in the public affairs of the nation and recognize how dependent on each other we have all become and how closely the individual interests of each one of us are bound up with the common interests of the whole body politic.

It is always a pleasure for me to come to Hamilton and this time I feel doubly privileged in being here with my Colleague, the Minister of Trade and Commerce. To each one of you he is one who knows and appreciates healthy industrial development and to be with him when you are showing him the way you are driving ahead here in Hamilton and the sound foundations upon which you are establishing and expanding so many of the basic industries essential to the needs of this Country, both for our own requirements and for the maintenance of our proper place in international trade, has made me feel almost like an insider myself.

During the last few years it has been my privilege to meet and to speak to a good many audiences in a great many parts of Canada. It has also been my privilege to meet and listen to a great many delegations representing different sections of our Canadian people: farmers, miners, forest operators, manufacturers, bankers, distributors, common carriers on land and sea, labor organizations, co-operative enterprises, professional associations, welfare associations, veterans associations, and others and I have been having confirmed more and more deeply all the time my conviction that the people of this country are on the way to become one integrated, united Canadian nation in spite of the heterogeneous elements of which it is made up and the wide diversity of natural resources of the vast land masses and great water bodies which constitute our half of this North American continent.

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