

benefit of his ability and long experience in perfecting several of their most important measures, notably the insolvent act and the act constituting the supreme court of the dominion.

This, Mr. Speaker, is a résumé of the activities of our first prime minister during that period.

Now, what does Macdonald mean to the land he represented? What does he mean to Kingston? What does he mean to Lennox? What does he mean at the present time to my riding of Prince Edward-Lennox? I remind hon. members that at one time he did run for office when the seat of government was in Toronto, and he was one of the earliest representatives of the county of Lennox. Lennox, Mr. Speaker, is the land of Macdonald. It, along with the whole of the bay of Quinte district is included in the sphere of influence of this great man during his lifetime. In the county towns of Picton and Napanee there are still a few people who remember Macdonald. These people probably remember him when he was beginning his career, and they were tiny children.

The influence of this great man is indelibly stamped on the city of Kingston. In passing, I would say that every time I go from Ottawa to my riding and I go by the southern route, especially at night, every time we come within view of that city, and its lights spread below us I call it "Mother Kingston". Kingston has been the social, legal and civic centre for our section of Ontario during the pioneer days. I should like also to remind hon. members that Kingston is not the oldest section of our part of the province. Adolphustown, the place where Macdonald lived as a child, is just as old as Kingston, and Napanee and Picton are just a little younger. Adolphustown is recognized also as one of the landing points of the United Empire Loyalists. No Canadian can visit the old restored cemetery there today without thinking of the origin of his country and its proud heritage. As everyone knows, Mr. Speaker, the loyalists were the original settlers of Prince Edward-Lennox and Macdonald became their great protagonist. The principles that were born here at Adolphustown have been inculcated and maintained in many other places across this country, and they still hold good today. I wish to put a quotation on the record referring to these loyalists, their memorial at Adolphustown on the bay of Quinte, and the civil legacy they have bequeathed to Canada.

Draw near Canadian, your destiny
Was nourished in the turf on which you stand.
This burnished benchmark of a broad new land
Enfolds the dust of those who made you free.
Now look beyond this anchorage of rest,
Their greater living monument command
The architecture of this patriot band,
One mould monolith from east to west.
These exiled poor, the potent leavening

Historic Sites and Monuments

That blends forever through our nation's sod
Burst on these regions like the breath of spring
With faith in flag and love for law and God,
Their legacy, dominion lithe and strong,
Their eulogy, a great triumphant song.

These are the words about which I like to think when I think about Macdonald, the land of Lennox where he lived as a boy. This is what every loyal Canadian in the bay of Quinte district likes to think about when they think of the hard, tough role that was played by the loyalists and their contemporaries, by those great leaders who have gone ahead and who have built what we have here today.

I am sure hon. members would like to be reminded of the fact that right in this air space, when discussing the building of this centre block, those men stood debating and solving the difficult problems of their time, probably problems far more difficult to them than ours are to us, problems that faced a young country in the 1860's.

Macdonald had help. No man can do things alone. Hon. members have found that out before they came here, in their municipalities and in the work which led up to their coming here. Macdonald had the faculty of getting things done and of getting men to work with him.

Mr. Winch: Are you referring to the C.P.R.?

Mr. Alkenbrack: I am not referring to that alone, although the same thing applies there too.

Mr. Matheson: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Alkenbrack: There will be time for you to make your remarks later. Speaking on March 6, 1865, during the parliamentary debates on confederation, Macdonald said:

The government will, therefore, at once state that it is our design to press, by all proper and parliamentary modes of procedure within our power, for an early decision of the house—yes or no—whether they approve of this scheme—

—namely, confederation—

—or do not. One great reason, among others, calling for promptness, is to provide as much as possible against the reaction which will take place in England from the disappointment that will pervade the minds of the people of England, if they get the impression that the project of the union of the provinces is abandoned.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. I apologize for interrupting the hon. member, but the time allotted to him has expired.

Mr. MacNaught: I think it would be the opinion of the house to allow him to continue, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Does the house give unanimous consent for the hon. member to continue his remarks?