

absent, that he has been misrepresented and maligned, and that his opinion is—well, his opinion is that—is that—that his opponents ought to declare clearly what in reality their views are. Let there be no beating about the bush. As for him he is not ashamed of his opinions, and he intends to maintain and act upon them at all hazards.

It is a poor game this: trying to make people believe that you are not skipping—that you are following with steady and unswerving step the identical road that each particular audience is travelling. But after all, if, as a mere result of the politician's desire for a quiet life, the roads are kept as close together as possible; if their reunion is hastened; and if other obstructions are by wise prevision and timely action removed; and if English and French from decade to decade, finding themselves harmoniously treading the same road—the road which runs along the line of Canada's best development and highest interest—learn to trust one another, even finally to coalesce with one another, we shall have to thank very largely the wisely compromising spirit of the statesman, inspired possibly by the election necessities of the party politician.

A second reason for the absence of Canadian national sentiment is the geographical relationship of the various provinces. We are all east and west of one another. Common lines of longitude are almost unknown. Add to this fact that interposed, here and there, are long stretches of water, of mountain and of waste land, and the force of this second reason becomes very palpable and unfortunately most potent.

Are there any other reasons? The shortness of our association is sometimes pointed to. But note that the German and Italian consolidations are still more recent, and yet in neither of these countries is there any lack of national sentiment. It may be replied that the German federation was formed at the end of a successful war, in which all the constituent parts had shared, and that that fact differentiates the cases. Yes, but observe Italy. For many years prior to her consolidation she had been struggling for it, and when it came it was preceded by military operations hardly more serious than a parade. Why had not the Canadian provinces