

operation we owe to the League of Nations—to set to work to secure the stability of its economic and social welfare.

It was most fitting that His Excellency, in his speech, should mention the fourth centenary of the discovery of our country, as well as the celebrations in honour of that famous navigator, that illustrious explorer, that great Frenchman, Jacques Cartier. Our population was delighted with these celebrations, and it is only right to say that the echo from Gaspé was carried from one spire to another, ever growing until it found its highest expression from the tower which crowns our federal buildings.

May I be allowed to congratulate the joint chairmen of the organizing committee of these celebrations, the remembrance of which will long endure. Both are popular members of this House, the honourable member from Montarville (Hon. Mr. Beaubien) and the right honourable member from Eganville (Right Hon. Mr. Graham). Nor should we forget their zealous collaborators.

Thanks to the recalling of this fine and vital page of history, to the visit of such large numbers of our friends from old France, to the presence of the United Kingdom delegates—moved also, as they were, by the remembrance of so much glory, their tactful and delicate speeches giving us to understand that they shared the joy brought by reunion to the sons of old France and New France, the latter being devoted subjects of His Majesty King George,—thanks to all that, we were reminded once more of the necessity of an entente cordiale between Great Britain and France, if we would see the unhampered progress of the charms and advantages of European civilization.

Those celebrations accomplished even more: they reminded us Canadians that the representatives of the two pioneer races in this country should more than ever strengthen the feelings of friendship and solidarity which must flourish among them, if we wish to develop a national spirit, a Canadian spirit both hardy and worthy of our immortal destiny.

I have always, in my own province of Ontario, preached the necessity of this understanding, the necessity for mutual respect of the dignity of our ethnical inheritance and of our mutual aspirations, and Sir Robert Borden proved that he felt that necessity also, and expressed it as follows in his "Canada in the Commonwealth":

The qualities of the French and the English temperaments are in many respects complementary. Each is capable of distinctive service to

the state, and each has given it. Not in fusion, but through co-operation, the highest service of the two races can best be given to Canada.

In Canada, the French race, maintaining its distinctive qualities, has brought to the service of the country much that is valuable. In some measure, the qualities of each race may serve to aid the possible deficiencies of the other.

Turning to the economic sphere, what did Canada reap from the year 1934? There was an increase in our international trade. For the first time since 1931, the total of our imports and exports was beyond a billion. To be exact, it reached the sum of \$1,173,373,000, compared to the \$939,000,000 of 1933, representing an increase of \$234,373, or 24 per cent.

And we may hope that this progress will continue, thanks to a policy of commercial pacts, a policy which has been so beneficial to us since the beginning of the depression. It was with great joy indeed that we heard yesterday the statement of the Prime Minister concerning negotiations with the United States, designed to result in a pact or treaty which will allow Canada to enjoy the benefit of the American market in a reasonable way.

Unemployment has greatly decreased. Statistics for the first eleven months of 1934 show that the labour index improved by 15.1 per cent; the volume of business by 19.3 per cent; wholesale prices by 6.9 per cent; mining production by 23.1 per cent; the receipts of the nationally-owned railways by 11.5 per cent, and those of the C.P.R. by 10.2 per cent.

There is some improvement also in the farmers' lot. In 1934, the value of farm products came to \$536,000,000, compared to \$423,000,000 for 1933, representing an increase of \$113,000,000, at least half of which will be money in the farmers' hands.

One can easily realize the benefits that additional buying power will bring not only to the farmers but also to the economic structure.

I do not wish to waste the time of this House in order to prove at length what is conceded and commented upon by the whole world, namely, that Canada is pulling itself out of the depression just as well as certain countries and much better than many others.

However, it seems unfortunately obvious that if we maintain our economic system in its present form we shall never succeed in giving to our people the assurance of happiness and comfort which every citizen is entitled to expect and which the community must give him. When I speak of happiness, I mean chiefly that sense of very legitimate satisfaction which arises from the receipt of a reward commensurate with the work done.

That is what His Excellency tells us in his message: