

After nearly four years of war our country, fortunately, is more united than it has been at any time since the outbreak of war. Canadian workingmen and women, Canadian farmers, Canadian business men, Canadians in all walks of life, have shown their readiness to put the interests of their country and of the world's freedom before their own immediate interests. In a world in which racial strife and racial domination are the instrument and the aim of the enemy, we in Canada have achieved a measure of racial harmony which is surpassed in no other country. It may truly be said that we have built a nation founded on the principles of equality and brotherhood among men. If a new era in which men and women can enjoy peace and prosperity is to be achieved, the application of these principles must be extended to the relations of all nations with one another. By our strength in war, and by our understanding and cooperation in peace, Canada can contribute mightily to the building of a better world.

To-day it is the prayer of the people of Canada that the Divine Power which has guided and guarded our country throughout the years of its growth may sustain our armed forces in their endurance of bitter conflicts, may give courage to our homes during the period of supreme trial that already is so nearly upon us, and may endow all the forces of freedom with the power and wisdom necessary to secure for mankind a just and enduring peace.

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on this memorable and historic occasion, as we pass another milestone along the pathway that has led us from confederation to this day it is with no small feeling of pride and of responsibility that I rise to add a word to what the Prime Minister has just said.

It is a sobering thought, and I could not help but think how sobering it was as I listened to the Prime Minister this afternoon, that perhaps in this seventy-seventh year of our Canadian federation, upon which we are now entering, we, the Canadian people, may be called upon to endure an ordeal such as this country has never before experienced. Since the year 1915 on eight different occasions, including to-day, we have celebrated Dominion day in the midst of a global war. We have been engaged in two global wars since we celebrated Dominion day in 1915. We can all at least hope and pray that whatever may lie ahead, whether or not it may bring the peace for which we are all looking, in the holocaust through which we must go before the rays of the sunshine of peace fall upon us, the Canadian people will carry the burden in the historic and traditional way of Canadians in years gone by.

Canada so far in this war has enjoyed relative security compared with many of our allies among the united nations and the British commonwealth itself. We have been spared some of the sorrows and sufferings which our allies have had to undergo. But as we celebrate the anniversary of confederation—and may I say, sir, that we celebrate it not simply as English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians, but as Canadians all, whatever our extraction—I am proud as a Canadian to join with the Prime Minister in marking this important occasion.

I should like to close with this reference. In the midst of our thoughts are the members of our armed forces, our soldiers, our sailors and our airmen. They have written in the past and are writing now and will write in the days to come glorious pages in the history not only of Canada but of the British commonwealth of nations—yes, and of the world too. As we send them our greetings, whether they be overseas or in Canada, we wish them godspeed and good luck. To their loved ones left behind, and to those who have already lost some of their dear ones in this war, we extend as a parliament our condolences.

I think parliament too must pledge to the men of our armed forces, to whatever branch they may belong, unanimous support to the full limit of this country's resources in manpower, materials and finance in the perilous task in which they are engaged for the sake of all of us. We owe them a debt of gratitude which it will be very difficult for us in the years to come to pay. But we must resolve as a people to pay that debt, no matter how much it may be.

We are proud indeed as Canadians, as we look upon the past and assess the present and face the future, to feel, as the Prime Minister has said, a new power within ourselves from the position we occupy in the great British commonwealth of nations and in the world at large.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): I have always rejoiced in the coming of Dominion day; for I have always been proud of our country, Canada, and have always been glad to contemplate the great future which can be in store for Canada if we manage our country wisely. It is a cause for satisfaction to all Canadians that Canada has attained national status; that she has become a world power; that she is now recognized as the fourth among the world powers. It is cause for deep satisfaction that we have almost boundless responsibilities in the world which is to come—responsibilities for the feeding of the peoples of the world, and for the rehabilitation of the world. But while we are rejoicing in what has been achieved; while our hearts are swelling with gratitude for what