

inspire and govern our life means more to our existence and our future than our wealth and prosperity. I do not deny the seriousness of our economic problems, but not one of them is a question of life or death for Canada. "Loss of money does not kill," whereas the loss of a true Canadian sentiment would bring about the failure of our national existence.

Nowhere can the national spirit of Canada be discussed more conveniently than in this Chamber, for the Senate was created out of regard for the highest interests of the nation and for the maintenance in its entirety of the spirit of our Constitution.

Now, more than ever, is the time to declare positively that if Canadians fail to live according to their traditions, Canada as a nation is doomed. So, above all, we must be Canadian citizens.

Such a policy, essentially Canadian, must prevail to-day and to-morrow—a broad and generous policy, considerate of all citizens, true to the Empire, yes, but above all true to Canada, this great, beautiful and rich country, England's ally.

I do not want to indulge in fruitless sentimentalism. On the contrary, I am conscious of uttering a fruitful truth and of being on solid ground.

True to a theme that is dear to us, I will repeat here what I have often said all through my career, whether in the province of Quebec or elsewhere. Canada is our fatherland, our sole fatherland. Undoubtedly, as French Canadians, we have a predilection for the province of Quebec. Do you know of any patriot, in any land whatever, without a special preference for a certain region in his own country? For the French Canadians that place is Quebec. And that is but natural. Quebec is our native land, and there we shall be laid to rest. The tender love we bear her does not exclude the broad and deep love we have for Canada as a whole. We love Canada and we want to serve Canada because we love Quebec.

In this country, inhabited by people from so many lands, we feel that a Canadian spirit must rise above political parties, above various races and creeds, above private interests. As in the Forum of ancient Rome, where men of different origins and of all ranks gathered side by side and became equals, once they could say, "Civis romanus sum," so Canadian citizenship, in this Confederation, must make us equal, united, proud and strong.

The policy of the men in power must be inspired with this ideal: to bring forth where it does not exist, to cultivate and strengthen

where it does exist, this national spirit which should guide our steps, this broad and noble Canadianism of which this House should set an example, and which is nothing but active love of country.

I wondered, and still wonder, why I had the great honour of being invited by the leader of the Government in this House to second the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. It may be that I owe it to the fact that I belong to a generation not yet old, and no longer young, but serving as a sort of connecting link between the old and the new.

With all my heart I thank the honourable leader of the Government in this House for having given me the opportunity of expressing in French, the language spoken by the first kings of England and by the pioneers of this country, ideas which, I am convinced, are shared by all Canadians. I trust I have not been too unequal to my task.

Honorable members, I thank you for your kind and indulgent attention.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable senators, we meet to-day under circumstances of quite visible change. Things seem to be different in more or less important particulars in matters of geography and of personnel.

The first thing we rightly observe is the presence of yourself, Mr. Speaker, presiding over the destinies of this House. By virtue of some reason in the minds of the Fathers of Confederation which I have never been able very fully to comprehend, it is not the function of the Upper House to select its own Speaker. Had such, however, been our function, I am sure we could not have discharged it more acceptably to all concerned than it has been discharged in your selection. With the utmost confidence we look to you to preside over our deliberations with fairness and justice to all members, new and experienced, and of either party. On behalf of those for whom I know I can speak, I promise you the courtesy and deference due your office, and the respect which your character commands.

It will not be assuming too much of the character of the patriarch if I venture to extend a welcome to the many new members whom we find amongst us now. There are, I believe, some eighteen who have just entered this Chamber for the first time. Most of them have had experience in the other House, all of them have had considerable experience in many spheres of active life, and all of them, including the last appointment, are, I know, a credit to Parliament. We will