

people from Quebec and other provinces, men who are no doubt conscious of their responsibilities and of the importance of their task, an enlightened and competent committee which will do justice to all, willing to consider the legitimate claims of the people and of the press as well as the merits of all the designs which have been submitted to it. We all know that the committee has reported that in its opinion Canada should have a national and distinctive flag.

Mr. Speaker, what more shall we have to do in order to attain to the rank of a true nation and achieve Canadian unity? We shall have to adopt a national anthem. I know of nothing more beautiful or loftier than the anthem O Canada. It is a martial poem which evokes our whole past featured by struggles, toil, efforts and pride, a true epic from which the people derive courage, strength and ideal, as well as a purpose for living, fighting, conquering, and if needs be, generously sacrificing their lives.

And what can be more stirring than that music to the rhythm of which our boys, in these times as in the past, have marched and defeated the enemy.

Canada's national anthem does not belong exclusively to my kinsmen, who find in a distant past the chief reasons of the love they feel for their country. The other racial groups who live in Canada also have their heroes and their martyrs. We all sing the same anthem; may we all understand it, and make it the basis of our thoughts, of our very life, and of our common love.

O Canada is the true anthem of this country; its accents arise from the land and are echoed by our great river, by the boundless forests which extend from the east to the west, forming the poignant voice of the past, the dynamic voice of the future. O Canada should remain our national anthem, it should continue to give expression, in this country as outside, to the spirit and the soul of our people.

Mr. Speaker, the French Canadians, like all other racial groups, are proud of their nationality, of their glorious past, featured by intellectual endeavours and contributions to moral improvement. They are proud of their language, they cherish their institutions and they intend to survive, to preserve their position in a country they have developed and in which they have multiplied. I consider national unity as a vital pact so lofty and noble in its scope and its inspiration that the

[Mr. Cloutier.]

parties to the agreement should esteem and respect each other. We are the most truly Canadian among Canadians, inasmuch as we have long been rooted in this country and we have benefited for many centuries from the numerous influences of our environment. In passing, I wish to recall with pride that my own ancestors came from France in 1616, eight years only after Samuel de Champlain had founded Quebec, but nevertheless, my only claim is that I am simply a Canadian.

We are of French and English descent, our culture is both French and English and that is the very reason why we feel impelled to safeguard the sacred heritage which our ancestors and yours have left us, those principles which are the very basis of our lives, which condition them and give to Canada a truly distinctive character.

(Text):

Mr. Speaker, so that this appeal of mine for cooperation, for Canadian unity, may also reach my English-speaking colleagues, I shall now complete my address in English, a language not altogether unknown to me, of course, but understandably less familiar to me than my own.

I thus wish to show my esteem and regard for my English-speaking colleagues both in and outside the province of Quebec, so that all may hear and understand my message, this appeal of mine, for earnest cooperation in the furtherance of national progress. Since Quebec members are ever ready to share in this effect, I too have wanted to do my bit in the furtherance of Canadian unity. I shall therefore continue my remarks on Canadian unity, following those I have just spoken in French. I can well imagine two great races of different backgrounds growing side by side in mutual respect, each striving better to understand the other. It is my feeling that war, in demanding closer contacts between provinces, between eastern and western Canada, between the French and the English elements of this country, has enormously helped a closer association of the people of Canada, a country so vast that differences may be noted in the mentality, outlook, habits and customs of people in the various provinces.

No wonder then that English and French Canadians, though living side by side, but being of different backgrounds and extraction, remain strangers. It may be that war shall have served to establish unity, wrought this miracle of *rapprochement* and mutual regard which long years, nay, a whole century of striving failed to bring about. The scourge of war then has had this beneficial result, for it has brought us to the threshold of a true and