

Great as was the faith of the Fathers of Confederation in the future they foresaw their anticipations have been eclipsed even within the lives of some who were spared until our day.

Sir, this nation's greatness can be limited only by its aspirations. We have been given by Providence a firm and enduring foundation. All that we wish for in material environment is symbolized in what we see to-day. The form, the semblance of loveliness, the outer strength and beauty, are all here. It remains only to cherish and ennoble the nation's ideals and to seek their realization in the justice of our laws.

Words of my own fail to express what I wish for my country in this connection. But the words of another come to me as I speak, and I apply them to the soul of our nation in the spirit of the resurrected form and beauty we behold to-day. It is a note clearer, purer, more ethereal, than all the rest.

Through the deep caves of thought I hear the
voice that sings:
"Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting
sea!"

Hon. H. S. BELAND (Beauce) (Translation): Mr Speaker, you will realize that it was not my intention to address the House this afternoon. However, I feel it to be my duty—an agreeable duty indeed—to notice in the presence of my colleagues, the remarkable effort just made, in the French language, by the right honourable minister of Commerce (Sir George Foster), who is now filling the important functions of leader of the Government.

He has set an example to his English-speaking colleagues, and we, whose maternal tongue is that of Racine and Corneille, hope that this example may be often followed.

In a language as distinguished in substance as it is in form, the honourable minister displayed before our eyes the panorama of the history of Canada. It was truly interesting. He made us live over again the hours of anguish which preceded the cession of Canada to England and the trying period which followed it.

We remember indeed reading in our history that the beginnings of the English regime in Canada were not always what they should have been.

There lacked lubricant between the administrative machinery of the time and the French Canadian people—then, supplying with the native races, the only population of the country. But in 1775, there took place in America an historical event which was a source of inspiration for Great Britain.

Two years ago, Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to be present, in Westminster, upon an occasion the remembrance of which will ever live in my memory. It was the celebration in London, in the heart of the British Empire, of the anniversary of American Independence. It was on the 4th of July, 1918, and upon that memorable day Mr. Churchill, in his speech, uttered the following words:

"When England lost the empire which was called the United States of America, England thereby won an empire."

How, Mr. Speaker, did England win an empire by losing the United States? Because this event determined with so clear-sighted political men as the English are, a new course in the management of their dependencies. It was a lesson by which it profited. And it profited by it to such an extent that to-day is seen around it this empire an integral part of which we are proud to be.

We are to-day meeting for the first time in this legislative temple. The speakers who preceded me have praised in inimitable language its artistic and harmonious proportions. I have but to join my voice to theirs, and to add that we of the French tongue are ready as we always have been to unite our efforts to those of our English-speaking friends and colleagues who share with us the soil of Canada on a footing of absolute equality.

We are here the descendants of two ancient and chivalrous races who have just demonstrated—if ever proof were needed—that they had not degenerated, when for five years on the battlefields they covered themselves with an immortal glory.

Yes, we desire to take our share, not only of the benefits which naturally accrue to a Canadian citizen, but also our share of responsibility and duty.

We were bidden to do so by the honourable minister; we shall willingly do it.

Mr. Speaker, I have but one word to add: let all devotion join together, let all energy in the country unite. The work to be done is immense and for the carrying out of the task before us, it is not too much of all the experience of men older than myself, and of all the ardour and spirit of