

dians, Danish-Canadians or Ukrainian-Canadians, or hyphenated Canadians of some kind or another. The tendency has been to emphasize the racial origin at the expense of the "Canadian". I think that is wrong. Keep the prefix if you like, but place the emphasis on the suffix. Let us emphasize our united future and not our divided past. For that reason I welcome any legislation, such as is now foreshadowed, which will embody the idea of Canadian citizenship; that will be equally the right and equally the pride of everyone of us.

Now it is idle to deny that in this vast country we have great diversities of racial origins, tongues, beliefs and interests. But let me ask you to consider these diversities in the light of the position that Canada has achieved in the world of to-day. The outside world knows nothing, and cares less, about these diversities. I was much struck by a remark which was made to me a few days ago by a boy who has just returned from four years of service with our armed forces. He was commenting on our tendency in this country to classify ourselves by our racial origin, or by the province from which we happen to come. This is substantially what he said: "In England, in Italy, in Belgium and, yes, in Germany, we were looked upon, and we looked upon ourselves, as Canadians. Nobody was interested in our racial origin or in the part of the country from which we came. By the peoples of those countries we were accepted and welcomed as Canadians. We represented the strength, the goodwill, the riches and the help that the name 'Canada' has come to mean to the other nations of the world."

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: Now I suggest to you that that is a feeling which exists in the minds of every one of the boys in our fighting forces when, with their hearts full of hope, they turn their faces homeward to the land of their birth. I suggest that we should follow their example; that from now on we should see ourselves as the people of other nations see us, and think of ourselves as the peoples of other nations think of us. Likewise, we should think of ourselves as, together, constituting one nation—a nation which has an important part to play and an important contribution to make to the world of today and of tomorrow.

It is a truism, of course, it is a thing which has been said countless times during the last few years by many tongues far more eloquent than mine, that no nation can any longer live to itself alone. In the modern world isolationism as a policy is no longer possible; it is not

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only dead but it is damned. Henceforth our external relations as a country are going to be far more important than any of the internal questions on which we may differ from time to time. If you want proof of that, look again at the Speech from the Throne and read how, in paragraph after paragraph, it refers to matters of international importance of all kinds.

Honourable senators, I should like to repeat a very striking phrase that was used two or three years ago by the late President Roosevelt, when he said: "This generation has a rendezvous with destiny." We in Canada are now called upon to act as a nation. That is the reason why I welcome the steps that have been announced in the gracious Speech with reference to the Canadian flag and Canadian citizenship. It seems to me that those steps will emphasize our national status in the minds of our own people, and will help us to develop the mental attitude that we shall need as we face the world of tomorrow.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. J. J. BENCH: Honourable senators, I should like, first, to associate myself with the good wishes expressed to the honourable the Speaker, and to the leaders on this and the other side of the House, by those who have preceded me in this debate. I should like also to add my voice to the chorus of congratulations which has been raised in recognition of the fine forensic efforts of the mover (Hon. Mr. Robinson) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Dupuis) of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

I was admitted to this Chamber under the leadership of the gentleman who now graces the Speaker's Chair, and I should like to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the many courtesies and the good advice which I have received from him since that time. These courtesies, I might add, were reflected in the attitude towards me, as the youngest member in point of years in this Chamber, of the honourable member from Alma (Hon. Mr. Ballantyne), who has recently retired from the leadership of the other side of the House.

Anyone listening to His Excellency's Speech must have shared with me an appreciation of its underlying theme—Canada, having emerged victorious from the most desperate armed struggle of its history, may now turn its legislative talents to the happier tasks of peace.

As was said by the honourable gentleman from Inkerman (Hon. Mr. Hugessen) who immediately preceded me, this Parliament may now concern itself not with the ugly problems