

Speech by Mr. Arthur Hawkes.

THE PLACE OF THE BRITISH-BORN IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

Substance of the address delivered during the election by Mr. Arthur Hawkes, Secretary of the Canadian Nations' League, and Chairman of the Canada-British Association.

The chairman has alluded to the criticism the British-born movement has aroused, and to the singular personal attacks upon myself, which have distinguished some of that criticism. Personal questions one can leave aside, because, after all, the only man who can destroy your character is yourself. It has been said generally that this movement sets the British-born against the Canadian-born, and creates and deepens racial prejudice between the two. Nothing is farther from the truth. It is a unifying movement, as I think you will see before this meeting concludes. When you have heard the case, as it has been presented to other audiences, I believe you will not be surprised that those who have denounced the British-born campaign have never taken the trouble to read or hear the facts and arguments on which it is founded. They denounce, but they do not answer.

Every man who comes to Canada must enjoy the native-born. To stand on the wonderful coast of Nova Scotia and look towards Europe over the Atlantic, whereon the Nova Scotia fishermen gather their precarious harvest; to traverse the St. Lawrence, mightiest river of all the continents, on whose banks it is demonstrated how two races may live in harmony under one flag; to cross this province of Ontario, which, within living memory, has been transformed from impenetrable forest into a fragrant garden; to travel beyond Superior into the fastnesses of timber, and river and lake and rock, which sheer off into the silences of the great north; to find yourself in the prairie country, ascending rivers that cross the rolling plain for a thousand miles, where for every Indian there is a homestead, and for every buffalo a car-load of wheat; to climb the Rockies and the Selkirks, where the railway, clinging to the face of the cliffs, indicates man's challenge to Nature in her most overwhelming mood; to descend the Fraser canyon, and to plant your feet upon the shores of the Pacific Ocean, whence you look westward to Canada's nearest neighbor, Japan—to stand in any one of these places, and to say,