

am of the failures of the past and of the difficulties and dangers that now confront us. Indeed, perhaps no one has done more in the recent past to direct the public mind to our current problems. Today, therefore, I attempt a more pleasant task -- at least for me.

The growth or achievement of a nation can be judged in many ways, but I suggest that the essential tests are these: First, is it increasing its strength as an economic unit? Has it shown itself capable of expanding its production and its productivity, thereby providing a rising standard of living for the mass of the population? Second, what about its achievement from the social point of view? Is it making reasonable progress in providing its people with the services and the forms of security they consider important? Third, is it showing capacity for growth as a political organism? Is it performing its political functions with increasing effectiveness? Are the political ties that bind the people together being strengthened? Finally, is it growing in stature as a nation among the nations?

Let us apply the first of these tests to Canada. Are we increasing our productivity and our production? Is the standard of living of our people rising?

The best measure of this is the national income, the aggregate of all the incomes earned by Canadians. Look back ten years to 1938. In that year the net national income was just under \$4 billion, and, of course, it had been much smaller than that in the early 'thirties. For the year just past -- 1947 -- the preliminary estimate is \$10.7 billion-