

*Canadian Centennial*

the nationals of other countries,—I use this word “nationals” in the true sense of the word, meaning the inhabitants of other countries,—that one has only to meet people outside our country to see how much our country is envied.

Whether one travels in Europe, Asia, Africa or in the United States, one realizes that Canada is the cynosure of all eyes; everyone wonders why this country has such a buoyant economy, and is progressing so fast with its vast development programs.

I can very well remember that, during the African tour of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, we were often asked: “Well, tell us about the Ungava mines, about the St. Lawrence seaway”. We also were asked, at that time: “Tell us about your Prime Minister”. You could sense how interested those people were in Canada’s economic position, and in Canada’s spectacular progress in the last few years.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I think that, in view of our still flourishing economy, we will have no difficulty in bringing our people fittingly to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Canadian Confederation, but the motion concludes as follows:

... so that . . . the people of Canada will be in a position to celebrate this nation’s 100th birthday not only with fireworks and speeches, but by the achievement of a land of health and abundance for all our people.

I very well understand what the hon. member had in mind. I am quite familiar with his political philosophy, and, indeed, I may tell him that all hon. members of this house and, in fact, all Canadians, want health and abundance for all our people.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, I believe that, to strengthen our system, and to develop our Canadian confederation, there are not only the physical factors of health and abundance to be considered; there are also spiritual factors, the heart and the soul. All this must frequently be expressed by speeches, more so by examples, and above all, I think, by sacrifice. Recently the whole world was surprised to learn that the Russians had managed to shoot a satellite towards the moon and stars, and that it kept circling around the earth for several days. While I am of course in no position to say that the Russians must have made several attempts before they succeeded in launching it, I do think I can say that that must have

[Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf).]

been the case and that there should be no cause for undue concern on the part of the Western nations.

Where the democracies were at fault was in talking too much about their own satellite before making a successful launching.

I have spoken, Mr. Speaker, about sacrifices; there is no doubt that these people are making tremendous sacrifices, whether voluntary or not. I believe that a country such as ours which has been created and developed by the devotion and sacrifices of its inhabitants must accomplish still more, in order to be better able to wage a victorious struggle against those who undertake or accept sacrifices to crush other nations. We must avoid any action which might divide us.

I therefore believe, Mr. Speaker, that the best way to nobly celebrate the anniversary of the Canadian nation is to continue to make sacrifices and at the same time to provide well-being and plenty for all; we should not, however, forget the intellectual well-being of our fellow citizens. We should stop our criticisms when we know that our governments are taking action to develop the arts in this country. I remember,—and I am not concerned with any electoral motives at the moment,—that when the Canada Council was instituted, there were rather strong criticisms. Nevertheless, I believe that the council came at the right time, that it was necessary because it happens very often,—more often than we seem to think,—that our artists are among our best ambassadors in foreign countries. We must therefore help them; we must find and develop new talents in order to train artists who do not copy others but are typically Canadian in the expression of their arts. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that we can develop something much better than futurism or some other modern art which is so difficult to understand that the artists themselves have to explain their own works to the layman. I have no doubt that the Canada Council will bring encouragement and precious assistance to our artists, and this will help the country to celebrate the anniversary of the Canadian confederation in a fitting manner.

Now, before celebrating confederation, we should begin by amending ourselves. I think we should get rid of a certain regional turn of mind which too often exists in some of our people. We have created a confederation, and we have a central power over the ten provinces. This reminds me of the story of Menenius Agrippa who saved Rome.