

in the same cordial spirit. At the head waters of that same Bay of Fundy, there is, in my county, a pretty settlement which furnishes a sad and tragic example of this fact. In those days about 165 years ago, I think, when there were such hopeless enmity and distrust between England and France, that spot was peopled by peaceful French-Acadian farmers, and on one luckless day, without the least premonition of evil, those people received a Speech or a Message from the British Throne, delivered by a military messenger, surrounded by his stern soldiery, a message which embraced the appalling tidings that on the very morrow they must leave their happy homes, they must abandon all the worldly possessions which their years of toil had garnered, they must contribute their quota, to the last man and woman and child, in that historic, that tragic expulsion of the French-Acadians from my own fair province of Nova Scotia. My gratefulness rises to the very gates of Heaven that since that day the mercy of England has grown even more rapidly than her material might; that though her arm is strong to smite it is equally strong to save; and that it is unthinkable that she should ever again treat a conquered people so, or resort to any such nightmare of Frightfulness. Between that day and this, in the old provinces of Canada, we had a long and stern fight to achieve the political rights which we to-day enjoy. In our Maritime provinces, fortunately, by circumstances, responsible government itself was attained without the shedding of blood. In the older areas formerly known as Upper and Lower Canada, that unfortunately was not entirely the case. But we shall waste no words in doubtful blame of those who found themselves in the thickest of that fight. Rather, we shall be profoundly thankful that the rugged road to the goal of responsible government was marked by such very few stains of blood.

And right in that connection, may I make bold to offer one word of appeal to our good friends who represent the western provinces in this House. We hear rumours, in fact more than rumours, that sooner or later there must be accountings between the East and the West; that there must be, for example, an authoritative deliverance as to who owns the great revenues of the national resources of the West; while there may be arguments and contentions as to how much of eastern money went to build the western railroads. Mr. Speaker, in one sense these are matters of pure dollars; and let me eliminate every possibility of misunderstanding by telling my friends from the West that I fully

credit them with just as sincere a desire as the best-intentioned patriot of the East to have in this Dominion a real union of the peoples of all the provinces. I can say that much with all the more sincerity by reason of the fact that the majority of my own relatives have long lived on those prairies, which sometimes have smiled and sometimes have been bitterly unresponsive to their labours. But when we approach these accountings and try to balance this unique ledger, I ask our friends from the West to remember that the boon of responsible government as a spiritual heritage for all Canada is something in the battle for which the eastern provinces alone bore the brunt, the tedium, the delay, the expense, and, here and there the bloodshed. Let our friends, as I think they will, give due credit for that asset which was won by the East.

During our recess, Mr. Speaker, an event of national importance—because of his recognized place, and that of his party, in this House—has been the resignation from the Progressive leadership of the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Crerar), whose absence to-day I regret. We are glad, every member in this House, that that resignation has not carried down with it the resignation by the hon. member of his seat in this chamber. Allow me to say that a leader more devoted to an honest cause, or abler in debate, or more courteous toward every member of the House, or better equipped with the saving grace of common sense to handle routine or to grapple with emergency, it would be difficult indeed to discover. May I congratulate—and I think I do so safely on behalf of the whole House—the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Forke) on his promotion. I am sincere in wishing him, as the new leader of the Progressives, the same measure of success as was achieved by his predecessor. I think that the canny quality of the Scotsman is one of his outstanding characteristics, and therefore, he will not expect me to wish him further success than that generous measure. Besides, I doubt whether there is among his followers a single man who is a disciple of the error of pushing a good thing too far.

Glancing at the clock, it seems to me that I have spent more time than I had intended upon what may be called pure preliminaries. But I will set the House at quiescence by promising to atone for that by curtailing some at least of the details which I had contemplated in discussing the remaining topics proper in the Speech from the Throne. And in doing so, I may deem it consistent with my duty to omit some of those