

We should be remiss, therefore, if we did not have confidence in these thousands of new fellow-countrymen, and particularly if we did not willingly welcome them. We have no right to overlook the prediction made in the last century, that the twentieth century would belong to Canada. Already, the spectacular advances of the last 50 years have remarkably justified that optimistic forecast. We must continue to realize the immense opportunities of our country with its wealth of natural resources and the beauty of its climate.

However, a wonderful soil, a favourable climate and unlimited resources, although they are invaluable factors in the economy of a country, do not build the nation itself. It is the population which uses and develops those resources which give them their full value. There is no denying the fact that Canada owes a large measure of its present development to the immigrants, to those men and women who have pushed back its frontiers, cultivated its fields and made possible the extraordinary expansion of its industries. And our country will still need, for many years to come, the contribution of these industrious and steadfast workers, if it is to achieve the remarkable destiny envisioned by those courageous pioneers who first wrested the soil from the forest.

It remains for us to welcome with warmth and cordiality those who come here seeking material security, happiness and peace. As His Eminence Paul-Emile Cardinal Léger once said: "We have no right to keep for ourselves alone a half-empty country". Our continent is immense; our sympathies must be commensurate!

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