

THE INSPIRATION OF CANADA

And then there is the incentive of the subject itself. It would, indeed, require the eloquence of a Demosthenes, a Cicero, a Burke, a Chatham or an O'Connell, to do full justice to the toast which I have the proud privilege of proposing. But the least eloquent of lips might well be made eloquent, the dulllest and coldest heart might well be inflamed, the weakest words might well be touched with inspiration by the very thought of Canada (applause). Canada! that glorious galaxy of nine great sister provinces, knit together in an indissoluble union. Canada! that magnificent heritage of ours extending for over three thousand miles from the waters of the broad Atlantic to the far-away slopes of the sun-kissed Pacific, that land teeming with riches, with its millions of fertile acres, which will furnish homes for hundreds of millions of sturdy Canadians yet to be, with its inexhaustible resources, its vast potentialities, its bracing and invigorating climate, its heroic and storied past, and, rarest gift of all, its stalwart sons and its fair daughters — Canada! this native land of ours, the best, the greatest, the fairest and the freest land on God's green earth (loud applause).

“Breathes there a man with soul so dead,

Who never to himself has said

‘This is my own, my native land!’” (applause)

And into this magnificent country Providence, as if to assure its mighty destiny, has poured the best of all the peoples of the earth. Read over the figures of the census and you will see that in addition to the four great ethnical elements — the French, the Irish, the Scotch and the English — the population of the Dominion includes men of every race and from every clime in the known world — a great cosmopolitan population that will be moulded by the process of time and the fires of patriotism into one mighty united people — the Canadian people. And of the total population of the Dominion more than one million, or nearly one-eight of the whole, are Irish. The exact figures, according to the last census were 1,050,384, and no doubt the forthcoming census will show an even larger number.

THE GLORY OF IRELAND

It is primarily as Irishmen, either natives of Ireland or descendants of those who came from the old sod, that you are assembled here

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