

Macdonald, Galt, Cartier, Tupper, Brown, Thomas D'Arcy McGee, Chapleau, Laurier and their successors.

Canada is a nation whose autonomy is to-day more nearly complete than yesterday, and will to-morrow be perfect and final. Those who cast doubt on the status we claim as a nation cannot, at all events, deny that our vast and wealthy country should aim to win that fine title, that our destiny demands that we should make ready for the part expected of us, that our Canadians are too virile, too energetic, to limit their aspirations and disregard their obligations.

The appropriations required for national defence are nothing new. Their increase is explained and justified. All qualified men of good understanding are unanimous in their praise of what has already been accomplished, but we still have to speed up the reorganization of our national defence.

Our people are but imperfectly informed on the subject. Enjoying perfect calm and a peaceful existence, Canadians do not sufficiently understand their obligation towards national defence, an obligation common to all nations who would live and expand. We must all agree with Cartier: "A people cannot aspire to the status of a nation unless it has military elements and the means of defending itself." The obligation to defend the nation has a special claim on the attention of those at the head of affairs, since the science of government demands foresight. Our statesmen foresaw this national duty. It is imperative that the people should see it in its true light. We must therefore undertake popular education on that point.

I believe the fear of British imperialism still exists in certain circles, blurring the perception of some things. Like the majority of Canadians, I am, and have always been, opposed to military imperialism. But I should not like to see the opposition to imperialism smother all other sentiments in Canada, nor make of us such fanatics that doubt and suspicion could take root among us and breathe into us a fear of living which might arrest our progress towards full enjoyment of our national status, leaving us rooted to the spot through our fear of British imperialism.

As Canadians, we must be clear-sighted enough to perceive the obligations imposed by the future; we should be strong enough to accept those obligations fearlessly.

Do we not know that the times are past when the waters of the sea parted to swallow up the enemies of a nation guided through the night by a pillar of light and ceaselessly protected through the miraculous intervention

Hon. Mr. PREVOST.

of Jehovah? Rather does the God of Battles say to-day: "Heaven helps those who help themselves."

Our ancestors who fought with all their might, who even shed their blood in their battle for the liberties we enjoy to-day, meant to establish here a great and true nation.

Let us reread our history, let us study our constitution, let us listen again to all the statesmen who succeeded one another in the course of the last century, let us recall the different stages of our prodigious and speedy progress, and we shall conclude that the blossoming of our national life, with its new obligations, is only the continuation of the work set in motion by the fathers of our country.

If the Speech from the Throne is read with deep attention it is easily seen that it expresses anxiety regarding the fundamental forces of the country. Of course, the sessional program it reflects is concerned with financial and economic problems, but these result from the development of the spiritual force in the Canadian soul.

To apprehend its full force and consequences, it is necessary to read the speech from the national viewpoint, with a national pride, and the two together dictate our national duties.

In that spirit, Canada, to-day as in the past, intends to remain a British country, although fully conscious of all its liberties and all its responsibilities as a Canadian nation. Thus, Canada in its foreign policy has friendship for all, malice towards none, and in its domestic policy it pursues the development of the country and the prosperity of all Canadians in unity, order, moderation, peace and security.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable senators, the debate on the Address in this House is never very lengthy. Indeed, here we do not seek to emphasize the importance of debates so much as the usefulness of other work that we try to do. An opportunity does come, though, in the motion for thanks to His Excellency for his Speech, to review the condition of the country, and particularly to measure the degree with which the Government has met the realities of that condition; and as well, perhaps, to offer some observations on what improvements might be made.

First of all, I congratulate the mover of the Address (Hon. Mr. Marshall) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Prévost) on the speeches they have made to-day. I listened with much interest to the speech of the honourable senator from Peel (Hon. Mr. Marshall). I say to him that while his remarks had no relation whatever to any of the subject-matter of the Speech from the Throne, they covered a subject vastly more important than anything