

General's speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Ferland for an address in reply thereto.

Hon. EUGÈNE PAQUET: Honourable senators, in carrying out her program for the economic recovery of the country, Canada has shown to the world that we are a nation which must be reckoned with in future. Our war effort, on a voluntary basis from the very first days of the conflict, made it possible for a great democratic country like Great Britain, to live through the dark days which marked the opening of hostilities. Several countries were then reeling under the blows of the enemy and the whole world had turned towards Canada, which, at gallant Albion's side, was their main hope of survival. Throughout the gigantic struggle we remained united and strong; our Royal Canadian Navy and our merchant marine were the first to take an active part in the battle. I take this opportunity of paying tribute to those courageous seamen who have become the heroes of the first round in the battle of the Atlantic. They did not hesitate to board their ships, which inevitably were only half equipped for action, in order to deliver supplies to the last stronghold of democracy and civilization. Their valour was above reproach and their contribution to final victory cannot be assessed.

Honourable senators, at the beginning of this new era of peace, it is our duty to offer our thankful prayers to those brave sons of Canada who made the supreme sacrifice for their country.

It is the custom in all countries of the world to raise memorials, in memory of those who gave their lives on the battlefields. For that purpose, symbols are cut into stone to remind future generations of the ideals and the valour of those who are no longer with us. I congratulate the government on its efforts towards commemorating those who have died. Such commemoration will show to the world the everlasting gratitude of the nation to its departed sons. I believe, however, that the greatest monument that can be raised in memory of our brave soldiers is to put in tangible form the ideal for which they have died. Never could we hope to build a more fitting and enduring memorial.

Honourable senators, if our sons have fought with such courage and made such sacrifices, it was to ensure a lasting peace not only between the various nations of the world but also between the various sections of each nation. How can our country contribute to that lasting peace? In the field of international relations it is our duty to help promote understanding and co-operation among

freedom-loving nations which are the pillars of our democratic civilization. Our sons have fought in order to give back to the world its lost freedom, and it is only logical that we should help to guard it.

May I quote a few words spoken on June 18, 1936 by the Honourable Mr. Dandurand? They convey my wishes, my feelings and my hope in regard to the young people of our country. The life of the various nations must be organized.

I say to young French Canadians that they may, with the help of higher education, a more highly cultured mind, prepare themselves to play an important part in Canadian Confederation. They will thus number among the elite which holds in its hands the destinies of Canada.

Let them get to work immediately. The older generation did not have the same opportunities so far as training is concerned.

The men of today and of tomorrow must have better tools at their disposal. If they have received a higher education, if they have been endowed with moral strength and force of character, and if they always entertain the ambition of serving their country, they will earn the respect of their fellow-citizens, for themselves and for the rights and privileges they endeavour to safeguard.

I do not hesitate to entrust the safeguarding of such rights and privileges to the youth of our country.

Canada's youth! Our youth must be rehabilitated morally, socially and professionally. I urge French-Canadian youth to seek economical power in order to carry out the destinies entrusted to them by Providence. I appeal to those people who are not of my nationality and who speak another language.

I ask our ministers not to ignore French-speaking technicians in regard to appointments in the administrative field. Let us give the French language the place to which it is entitled; let us grant to the minority the rights which are theirs under the terms of the constitution. Let us be fair towards our own nationality, and we shall thus erase the misunderstandings and the grievances which may occur in the dominion.

The topic chosen this year for the National Pride Week is our rural epic. The Comité de la survivance française has thereby endeavoured to draw the attention of French Canadians to the heroism of our first settlers, to the high esteem in which the tilling of the soil was held in our religious and national lives, and to the important part which agriculture and colonization will be called upon to play in the development of our nationality.

The beauty of our rural epic has been brought to light on the calendar of the Survivance française for this year.