

counter in a general store and have personally witnessed the advantage to trade and commerce when farmers have good buying power.

Mr. G. H. HÉON (Argenteuil): Mr. Speaker, I shall speak half of my allotted time in the language of the majority of my constituents, which is French, and shall devote the latter part of my address to the expression of my opinions in the English language, because thirty-five per cent of the population of my constituency is of English or Scotch extraction. Each and all of my constituents are peace-loving, broad-minded Canadians, not at all concerned as to the creed or ancestry or language of their neighbours, but most respectful and considerate of each others' opinions. There are no racial, religious or linguistic disputes among the people of my constituency; we solved a long time ago the question of national unity and understanding by dropping from our vocabulary such expressions as "majority" and "minority," by treating one another as equal and by learning one another's language.

I have the honour, sir, to represent a constituency which gave to this country Sir John Abbott, a former prime minister, whose distinguished daughter, Doctor Maud Abbott, is a constituent of mine. Argenteuil also elected to this house the late Sir George Perley, whose sterling qualities and gentlemanliness were well known both in Canada and abroad. May I inform this house that such was the late Sir George Perley's generosity that I do not think there was in the constituency one destitute family which did not benefit at one time or another by his munificence. I could add that there is not one church, Catholic or Protestant, which did not receive at some time a substantial cheque. His material kindnesses, quite contrary to the kindnesses of some politicians I know, extended far beyond the pre-election periods.

(Translation). Mr. Speaker, the county of Argenteuil, which I have had the honour of representing for the past year, contains a historic site which is too little known. I invite hon. members to visit it when they can find time to do so. It is on the spot where the picturesque Argenteuil village of Carillon stands to-day that was fought in 1660 the glorious battle of Long Sault where Dollard des Ormeaux and his companions saved the new-born Canadian colony. Such a visit would convince my hon. friends that a race which has gone through the test of such sacrifices cannot perish nor allow itself to be absorbed, and that the French Canadians of to-day are penetrated with the same love of their country and the same indomitable will to survive.

Our hon. friends of English descent would judge us much less severely if they studied our history—and they should study it; they would gain a better understanding of our intellectual outlook, of the legitimacy of our claims, of our honest and firm intention of upholding the rightful interests of our country by always placing, both in our foreign and our domestic policy, the immediate welfare of Canada before that of any other country.

On this point, I believe that the entire French-Canadian representation in this house, whether Conservative, Liberal or Social Credit, is unanimous or at least should be. We may as well state it right now, for the constitutional and political history of Canada has eloquently proved it: the French Canadians, whenever it has been a question of their best interests, have forgotten their petty political quarrels in order to unite under a common standard.

Circumstances which are none of our seeking and which we should have avoided, as well as an ill-advised foreign policy concerning which we have not been really consulted, may perhaps make it necessary for us—much sooner than some believe or desire—once more to forget party lines and join forces to defend what we consider the most sacred interests of our country.

I come from Conservative stock, Mr. Speaker, and I am not ashamed of my party. A political party that has given to the Canadian nation men like Cartier and Macdonald; that has supplied a prime minister like Tupper—who fell for having defended the French-Canadian minority in Manitoba against the great Laurier whom my hon. friends opposite constantly evoke to justify themselves and get themselves elected in Quebec—a party that has been able to attract to its ranks a man of the intelligence and ability of the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, is absolutely honourable and deserves to continue to play a leading part in the political life of Canada.

At the Conservative convention of July last I loyally and sincerely supported the candidature of the present leader of the party, because of all the candidates he was the one who, in my opinion, could best understand the French-Canadian Conservative mind. He is the leader of the party, and I must say in all fairness that his declarations regarding immigration have particularly pleased me and that I am entirely with him on that point.

The other day, my hon. friend from Champlain (Mr. Brunelle) did me the honour of mentioning my name in the course of the remarks which he deemed proper to make