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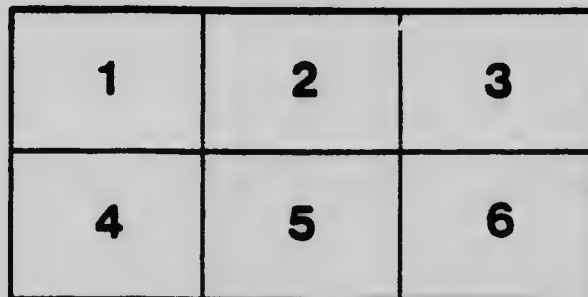
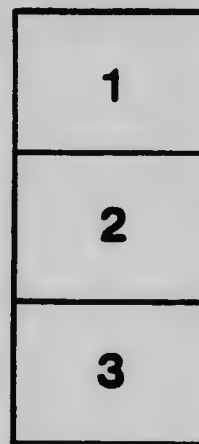
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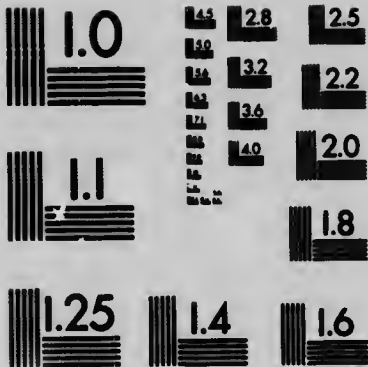
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Address by Mr. Justice Riddell ^{Riddell}
at Rochester. 1917

"United States & Canada"

OFFICIAL OPENING

OF THE

NEW HOME

OF THE

ROCHESTER CHAMBER of COMMERCE



OCTOBER SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH AND
FIFTH, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN



THE ROCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JUSTICE WILLIAM RENWICK RIDDELL

OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ONTARIO, CANADA

PRESIDENT HARPER SIBLEY, *Introductory*

TO the North lies our great sister country, Canada, from whom, if I am right, England had no power to demand a corporal's guard or a silver shilling. England had no power over Canada whatever except that power which Germany could not see, the power of a great ideal. To that ideal Canada has, made the greatest free will offering that the world has ever seen. [Applause.]

It gives me the greatest pleasure and satisfaction to introduce to you Justice William Renwick Riddell of the Supreme Court of Canada. [Applause.]



JUSTICE WILLIAM RENWICK RIDDELL.

JUSTICE RIDDELL, *Address*

As I was sitting here this evening I wondered why it was that you had gone back to the old rule of always bringing on the best wine first, and when the people "have well drunk, then that which is worse." I learned the reason when my friend, Dr. David Jayne Hill, spoke, because he told us that you stood by the old customs. I have no reason to complain. If I had such reason on any account, it would be quite wiped out by the fact that I see that women in this city are "folks," and allowed to sit among "their betters." It is one of the most delightful customs—one which I am glad to say is spreading more and more widely, not only in this land, but also in Canada, another backward country—to ask our lady friends to favor us with their presence at a meeting, because you will find that it adds to the interest and does not at all diminish the usefulness.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am come to you, as has been said, from one of those five free governments, free governed, self governing; constituent nations of the far flung British Empire. British as we

Canadians have been, British as we are to the last drop of our blood, and British as we shall be if it costs the last drop of our blood, we can claim also that we are American, American geographically, American socially, American to a large extent commercially, American in our views of personal freedom and liberty, not governed by class or custom. We look to the south to our older, richer and stronger brother with admiration and love. Canada claims as her own his prowess and strength and glory. Nay, she has even almost forgiven the Thirteen Colonies leaving the old homestead when she was but an infant, and setting up a new establishment of their own with new rules and regulations.

When it was found that I was to come to Rochester, I was intrusted by certain of our citizens with messages which with your permission I will read. First, from the Prime Minister of Ontario, who corresponds to your Governor. We have governors of our own, but we call them governors for precisely the reason that we call the stream near my father's old farm a "trout stream," because there were no trout in it. So we call our governors "governors," because they do not govern, being themselves governed.

FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

From Sir W. H. Hearst, the Prime Minister of Ontario, to the Rochester Chamber of Commerce:

"Gentlemen:

"I am glad to have the opportunity through the kindness and courtesy of the Honorable Mr. Justice Riddell to congratulate the people of the United States on the stand you have taken in this great war. You have chosen wisely and deliberately to resist with all your great power the attempt to establish a cruel and heartless military dictation in Europe and throughout the world. We, in Canada, have long realized that whenever opportunity offered, Germany would try to seize this country. Hence it was that, at the outset, we determined, without hesitation, to stake our last man and our last dollar on the outcome of this struggle. Already, as you know, the blood of Canadians has been poured out like water on the battle-fields of Europe. We have been grateful all along to have had your encouragement and your sympathy; and we are glad to know that now we are receiving your active co-operation and support.

"We believe that the United States is in the war to the finish. Your interest is even greater than ours for you have more at stake; while your responsibility and your opportunities are proportionate to your strength in men and material resources. In this common and sacred cause we are brothers. I am confident that we will be bound together for generations by our common sacrifices and triumphs.

Chamber of Commerce Building

The laurels you will win will be our pride and our glory for we of the new world must all do our part to restore and preserve to the old world from which we have sprung the privileges and blessings that have been won by democracy through centuries of human effort and progress.

"Yours sincerely,
(Signed) "W. H. HEARST."

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Then from Sir Robert A. Falconer, the President of the University of Toronto, which has nearly 5,000 of its sons in khaki and nearly 300 have made the supreme sacrifice:

"Dear Mr. Justice Riddell:

"I shall be very glad if on the occasion of your address you will convey to the Rochester Chamber of Commerce our greetings, and express to them the satisfaction that we feel in the knowledge that they are standing with us in the maintenance of our common civilization. Especially I should like you to tender an expression of our cordial friendship to President Rush Rhees and the University of Rochester. The Universities of the United States and Canada will hereafter have closer affinities than ever.

"Yours sincerely,
(Signed) "ROBERT A. FALCONER,
"President."

FROM TORONTO'S MAYOR

The Mayor of Toronto, the Honorable T. I. Church, sends greetings:

"Dear Justice Riddell:

"I am glad to learn that you are to speak for Canada at Rochester on the occasion of the opening of the new Chamber of Commerce building there. Your eminent position as a Judge and your natural gifts combine to make it most fitting that you should represent our country at such an event.

"The cities of Toronto and Rochester lie on opposite shores of the same great lake, and their maritime commerce is carried on the same waters. Many social and other ties exist between their peoples and a mutually friendly feeling has always prevailed.

"The people of Toronto and of Canada cannot be unmoved witnesses of the entry of the United States into the war as one of our Allies. Its immediate effect is to re-unite Great Britain and the United States in all respects except the political relation. Fighting side by side for human freedom, making sacrifices together of blood and treasure, and having an identical aim, the accord of British and American hearts will never again be broken. The extent of the beneficial effect of that reunion upon civilization and the world no one can estimate.

Official Opening of Rochester

"May I ask you to express to the Mayor and citizens of Rochester our congratulations on the opening of a new Chamber of Commerce building and our hope that the "Flower City" may be blessed in the future with even more abundant prosperity than in the past.

"Yours very truly,

(Signed) "T. L. CHURCH,
"Mayor."

UNITED STATES AND CANADA

I have been asked to speak on "The United States and Canada." I may not speak to you of commerce as it may be in the future. That is a political matter on which the lips of His Majesty's Justice are sealed. The commercial relations between the United States and Canada have in the past been almost absurd, whip-sawing one way and another. The United States would make an offer, only to have it rejected. Then when Britain and Canada had come to a better sense, the United States declined what they had formerly asked, and when the United States had come to a better sense, Canada declined, and vice versa, whip-sawing for seventy years. In 1854 it was thought that this was put an end to when that great treaty was put through, the Reciprocity Treaty. But this lasted only a few years—the United States denounced it in 1866. Not that it was not fairly satisfactory, for, with a little amendment, it would have answered all legitimate purposes; but because this nation was angry at Britain for her conduct during the Civil War and wreaked a vicarious vengeance on the child for the mother's supposed sin. Perhaps now when the troubles of the neutral are better appreciated in the United States, opinions on the conduct of Britain will be more charitable. We sought again and again the reciprocity we had lost, but in vain—till at length we settled down to the struggle without it—and we "made good."

Then came the offer from your side—and we rejected it. But if 51 per cent of our voters decided that Canada would be better without reciprocity, that did not mean that they looked upon the citizens of this Republic with dislike. Business is business. We continued to regard you when we rejected your offer as you regarded us when you rejected ours. True, there are some with us who like to have a shot at the American Eagle as you have some who love to twine the Lion's tail—but on either side of the line these are negligible.

When this war began and Canada threw herself into the conflict with men and money the position taken by the United States was perplexing to Canadians.

WHEN CANADA EXULTS

Some jeered at the American love of wealth—I have not found any nation that is not fond of wealth: if there are any, they are the most degraded of savages who can have no wealth. But some of us who thought they knew the American people and knew that they loved the American people were astonished. We did not understand what was meant by neutrality in thought unless, indeed, it meant negation of thought, the easiest of all virtues and the most universally practiced. But we did not see what the great Master Workman was working out. We saw the threads but we did not know the pattern which was being worked—and when on second of April of the present year the most magnificent state paper that this continent has ever seen was read before the Congress of the United States, and the President challenged the United States to make the world safe for democracy, and asserted that the Autocrat was by nature necessarily a liar, and could not be believed, and the United States went whole heartedly to war, we saw the whole splendid pattern, and the heart of the Canadians exulted. Our brethren whom we misjudged, our brethren knew better what to do than we could possibly have told them. Our brethren knew the right when they asserted that they were going to fight for the right, and our hearts rejoiced with an exceedingly great joy. Oh! you sons of free America, do you understand the exultation and joy and delight with which the Canadians saw our brethren coming to our side and saying we are in this to the last—we will fight and bleed and if necessary die with you?

We yearn for peace—the world yearns for peace. Peace is impossible until such time as the nation whose national industry is war, until that nation whose national instinct is to steal from a peaceful neighbor and charge him with the theft, that brutal, hypocritical, lying, spying nation has either suffered utter defeat or has experienced a complete change of heart. Sir, the only peace which we liberty loving nations will accept, is the peace that kisses righteousness, for “the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever.” It is pitiable, it were incredible, if it were not true, the peace kites flown, the peace balloons going up, the petty, silly, childish attempts to bring about a compromise. As though this were a war for money or territory; as though this were a war to determine whether A or B should be monarchs of such and such a piece of land and govern such and such a people; as though in this great war for principle we could ever have peace until that nation should learn that not armed force, military

power, braggart boasting of "mailed fist" and "shining armor," rattling of sabre in sheath—not these, but it is "righteousness" that "exalteth a nation." Sir, that is the kind of peace under which you and we have lived for over a hundred years.

SMELLS OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

There are but two principles of international conduct, but two principles that are worth while. One of these is, "Might makes right. Might is right. I can; therefore, I ought; and accordingly, I will." Easily understood; simple as A, B, C; but it smells of the bottomless pit. It is the principle of primeval man, who vindicated his rights by his own strong right arm; who followed the simple plan that "They should keep who had the power; and they should take, who can." It is impossible for a nation to live with such the governing rule; and accordingly courts of justice or of arbitration were introduced to introduce checks upon its operation, in order that there shall be no destruction by one member of the family, the sept, the clan, the nation of the other. As between nation and nation there is a dim simulacrum of this in our international law, but after all it is but dim. There is another rule, "Right is right; and because right is right, to follow right were wisdom in the scorn of consequence." There are three ways in which a course of conduct may be right: It may be right because it is in accord with that moral law planted in every man's soul, that moral law which we Christians believe came from the throne of God Himself; or ethically indifferent a course of conduct may be right because it is in accordance with some law laid down by competent authority, or ethically and legally indifferent, it may be right because it is in accord with a bargain or contract which has been entered into; and that nation, man, however strong—brutally strong, however pious—overwhelmingly, ostentatiously pious, however learned—wearisomely learned, that nation which violates right, whether it be a moral right, a legal right or a right of contract is a criminal before the face of God Almighty, or—there is no God. Where nations agree to look upon that which is right as right, and to follow right, there are no difficulties. If there is dispute it can be determined by principles of right or wrong. Simple plain justice, and simple plain honesty are sufficient to reconcile all the disputes in this world, if men and women and nations are content to allow them to be so composed.

ENGLISH SPEAKING PEOPLE ARE ONE

Sir, it is upon that latter principle that your nation and mine have for over one hundred years governed themselves. We make a treaty; if we find the treaty is not interpreted in the same way by both parties, it is left to the interpretation of judges or of arbitrators. If the treaty does not cover matters in dispute between us, we make another treaty; and when we make a treaty we stick to it. A "scrap of paper where a name is set is strong as duty's pledge or honor's debt;" and because Britain with Canada on the one hand and the United States on the other have looked upon their treaties as sacred, and not as "scraps of paper" we have been able to keep the peace for these one hundred years. There have been disputes but none so bitter as to produce a resort to arms; there have been controversies, but none so severe that the cannon must be the arbiter; there have been misunderstandings, great misunderstandings, but none so great as that it was thought necessary that brother's hand should be dyed in a brother's blood. While we have had our tiffs, as brothers or cousins have, between each other we have kept our bargains, and we have kept the peace. One would have thought that the example of great nations such as these nations, who had and cherished that chastity of honor which feels a stain like a wound, nations so strong that they need fear no foe; proud, wealthy, powerful nations, being content to govern themselves by the rules of ordinary honesty and simple plain dealing as between man and man, and so have kept the peace for one hundred years—one would have thought that no nation was so proud, that no nation was so strong, that it would despise the example of these.

But it was not to be—and the war has driven us into each other's arms. Sometimes I thank God for this war. I know not a day passes but some mother in Canada, scarcely a day passes but some mother in my own city, weeps for the son who has made the last sacrifice; not an hour passes but a Canadian is wounded—a Canadian's blood does not pass away; Canada is bleeding at every pore, proud of her boys, though with a broken heart: even so, I sometimes thank God for this war. The Kaiser builded better than he knew: The English speaking people are one. [Great applause; the audience rising to its feet and cheering.]

Oh, day which has been postponed for years! Oh, day which has been the subject of prayer throughout the English speaking world, the boast of the United States, Great Britain and Canada! At last our misunderstandings have passed away as mere nothings. We

have mourned the effects of that separation, which after all is but as of yesterday compared with the centuries of glory and pride which we have in common. Almost has passed away all feeling of that political separation, which is but skin deep, compared with that which is within, our fundamental and essential unity. And so we, Canada, your sister, and daughter of the great mother across the sea, holds out one hand to you and the other hand to her across the sea, and beckons the other free British nations to witness and rejoice in the reconciliation of mother with daughter. Verily the days are at hand when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

THE WORLD OF THE FUTURE

But let us not forget our God-given task in that great future. My soul tells me as yours must tell you, that the future of this world depends upon the English speaking nations. But in that great future there will be another Germany; a Germany that has got rid of her paramount folly, a democratic Germany that has got rid of her "Kultur" rubbish; Germany will come back to the old, kindly, loving, simple hearted Germany; the indomitable perseverance, the strong sense of duty, the willingness to labor and faithfully, whole heartedly to serve the nation will make a new Germany, a greater and a nobler Germany, a Germany which will be loved and esteemed, and not hated and despised by the other nations of the earth. While we must strain every nerve to win the peace the terms of which we shall determine, while we must strain every nerve to see that it is an English speaking peace which is declared, let us not forget that there is good in Germany, and that Germany may in the future be a sister, instead of an outcast.

With a world-wide democracy, a world-wide brotherhood, the dream of the poet will come true for there will be seen on earth, the like of what he saw in the heavens, there will be seen living what he saw dead.

THE ARMY OF THE DEAD

I dreamt that overhead
I saw in twilight grey
The Army of the Dead
Marching upon its way,
So still and passionless,
With faces so serene,
That scarcely could one guess
Such men in war had been.

