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CONFEDERATION AND CANADIAN UNITY

The celebration of Dominion Day carried Canadian unity a good step farther ahead. The observance went modern with a nationwide radio broadcast in the evening when our people received cordial and obviously sincere greetings from the President of the United States, speaking for his people "individually and collectively." The Governor-General replied on our behalf from the ancient capital city of Quebec in which he made a reference to rare penetration to the great work accomplished seventy years ago by the Fathers of Confederation. "They gave Canada union," he said. "They could not give her unity."

Yet, in this same broadcast, there was the spirit of unity. It was bilingual. There was frank recognition of the fact that by our Constitution we are a nation with two languages—as the Swiss are a nation, and a firmly united nation, with three languages. In the modern world, a nation is not merely a political framework for a race, a religion, or a language. Some beserk revivals of mediaeval isolation, such as Hitler's Germany, may put before themselves the barbaric ideal of a regimented and uniform people. They may try to force everybody into the same mould. But a free democracy has escaped from this out-worn fetish of tribalism. It brings together such peoples as happen to form a convenient economic and political unit and who desire to co-operate in securing for themselves good government and the best possible living conditions.

(We have all listened with real pleasure to the enthusiasm with which the French people from all over the Continent have gathered in the French Language Congress to glorify their musical tongue and seek to keep alive the traditions of the French pioneers who had so much to do with taming the wilderness and founding this country. It was not at all surprising that some of the utterances reached an ecstatic climax in which they took leave of reality and "saw visions and dreamed dreams." This is the way of all devotees. In the hey-day and holiday of the mighty sentimental movement, such excursions into the unreal come under the head of "poetic licence.")

But there was no reason for anybody to get excited over it. The French people themselves could be depended upon to bring all such airy flights back to earth and to confront the realities of the situation with that sure logic and clarity of vision for which their race is celebrated. At the banquet table—a fitting place where needed things can be said without too much seriousness—the Premier of Quebec quietly deflated all proposals looking to racial "separatism." His Minister of Fisheries took the same view, and the Apostolic Delegate at Ottawa sanely reminded the gathering that "the Holy See does not take up the cause of a particular tongue."

Perhaps the warning that should have the most effect came from the Archbishop of St. Boniface in Manitoba. He had advanced the opinion

that the separatist attitude is one of "discouragement and defeatism." This is the voice of a French-speaking minority in an English-speaking area. These minorities know far better than the confident and powerful majority in Quebec possibly can know just what is the effect of utterances like these on the mentality of the English-speaking majorities among whom they live. Such utterances ring out with the clangor of a challenge; and if the French leaders in Quebec imagine that they are the only sane and patriotic headquarters staff who have to deal with the nuisance and danger of extremists, they might well consult just such men from the outposts as Mgr. Yelle of St. Boniface.

M. Duplessis intervened in very timely fashion. But we hope that the Premier will not forget that—quite inadvertently, we are sure—his Government stands responsible for one of the most dangerous blunders that has been committed in many a day. No doubt, their purpose was purely routine. They desired to make it easy for the legal profession by declaring one language to be the official version of the law. This avoided conflict between the two versions.

But the reaction, especially in Ottawa, is bound to be most mischievous. There they will find men who meet the suggestion that Quebec be a French State with a counter-suggestion that the B.N.A. Act be rewritten with the French language omitted. As French-speaking neighbors well know, The Montreal Star has been steadily and strongly against this proposal. We believe that it would be a breach of faith. We further believe that it would make for disunion and tend to destroy the harmony that has been slowly built up through the decades between the two great races that comprise—we had almost written "divide"—Canada.

So we venture to suggest—still in the fraternal spirit of the banquetting hall—that Mr. Duplessis could pour a

BRIGHT LONDON BOBBY KNEW THE ANSWERS

Comes along a fellow who'd been to London to the coronation. He'd been there for a while before the coronation, too. And he's still laughing over the incident that happened during one of those rehearsal parades that were held before the big event actually came off.

The idea, according to this chap, was that as the elaborate, ornate carriages drawn by nifty, spirited steeds passed through the packed thoroughfares the populace was urged to cheer the empty carriages in order to accustom the horses to the noise so that when the coronation parade actually took place the steeds would not be frightened.

(Continued on Page Three)

Jamaica and Canada Buying More Goods From Each Other

The island of Jamaica, in the British West Indies, imported more manufactured goods last year from Canada than any year since the Trade Agreement with the West Indies became effective. These goods consisted largely of wearing apparel and women's leather shoes. Canada accounted for 16.3 per cent. of the total value of Jamaica's imports last year, Great Britain ranking first with 38.1 per cent. and the United States second, 17 per cent., total value being approximately \$25,000,000. Canada in return is Jamaica's second best customer, taking 29.7 per cent. of the total value of exports, principally raw sugar, bananas, coffee, cocoa, oranges, coconuts. Great Britain is Jamaica's best customer, taking 55 per cent. of the total value of exports. British Empire countries took a total of 85.7 per cent. The United States accounted for 9.2 per cent. Since the inauguration of the direct steamship service by the Canadian National steamships between Canada and the British West Indies, an increasing number of Canadians are visiting Jamaica the year round taking advantage of the summer and winter cruises operated by the "Lady" liners of the company from Montreal in summer and Halifax, via Boston, in winter.

lot of timely oil on waters that are fast becoming troubled if he would announce without too much delay that he will repeal this act, whose lethal consequences he did not contemplate, at the next session of the Legislature.—Montreal Star.



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