

Strength in Adversity

by Dr. Sidney E. Smith
President of the U. of T.

It is not unfitting that I speak to you about Canada, under the title: "Canada: Strength Through Diversity." In three sections of Canada, the Maritime Provinces, Central Canada and Western Canada, I have had the opportunity to see at first hand the work of Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce in advancing national welfare, while at the same time they promoted the progress of their respective communities.

In fact, the federation known as the Canadian Chamber of Commerce is an excellent example of my theme: "Canada, Strength Through Diversity." You and your fellow members throughout Canada have demonstrated and are demonstrating that strong communities are essential for a strong nation and that the communities cannot be strong unless the nation is strong. Our Modest Changes.

I sometimes fear that out of our doubts about Canada and Canadians we may develop a sense of uncertainty with respect to her national purpose and a sense of frustration with respect to what we can do about fashioning national goals and objectives.

That mood of uncertainty and frustration, I believe, is not as prevalent as it was a few years ago. Yet one may still find among us men and women who would refer to Canada as a colony. Others speak of her as an appendage to the United States. Other Canadians bewail her lack of art, her lack of culture, and above all her lack of unity. Others declare that Canada is not producing leaders and that in many fields we must import outstanding men to take charge of many of our activities. Others declare that we are colorless and anemic, pale composite reflections of great Britain and the United States.

Task of Every One:
It is well for a nation to take stock of itself and to evaluate its strength and its weaknesses. That is a manifestation of both honesty and modesty. While a mood of smug satisfaction may make us complacent about the present and unconcerned about the future, an over-emphasis of our shortcomings may be equally fraught with danger.

I am not so naive and Pollyannaish to suggest that everything is pretty fine and nice about Canada. Yet, I plead that we should have a more abiding pride and faith in our country.

The Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey in "On Being Canadian" tells of his ability to pick out Canadians in the U.K. during the war; and he asks: "Was this the Canadian type about which we had argued so long?" Its emergence has been prematurely hailed by some; its existence is still stiffly denied by others. We have asked ourselves whether a people so diversified as ours and geographically so scattered, had produced something recognizable as a Canadian and indeed whether it ever could. In Great Britain with hundreds of thousands of our fellow countrymen alongside even greater numbers of Americans and men from the British Isles, we could put the matter to the test for the first time in our history and the answer undoubtedly was — Yes, there is such a thing as a Canadian.

Record Distinctive
On the civilian side the record of Canadians is distinctive and, in many instances, unique. Let us look at some of the attainments of Canadians in nation building:

In 1867, less than four million persons set themselves to the task of building Canada. Within a generation, the new Dominion extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific and to the northern sea. The continent was soon girded by railroads. Natural resources were then discovered, developed, processed and exported. Our forefathers with faith in social and spiritual ideals established churches, schools, colleges, and universities. Professions, nurtured at first by the Old Country, soon began to stand on their own feet by prescribing high standards and training recruits who, with experience, take no second place in any country.

Gigantic Strides
In industry and commerce, Canada for a nation of less than four million has made gigantic strides. In a survey made a few years ago it was established that Canada was in the thirty-fifth place among the nations in terms of population.

We should keep in mind the facts of the case. Canada produces the world's fourth greatest crop of wheat. Canada is first in the production of nickel, newsprint, asbestos, platinum and radium. Canada is the world's second largest producer of aluminum, wood, pulp, and hydro electric power. In the building of cargo ships, Canada was second during the war. In producing copper, lead and zinc, Canada takes third place. Canada is the third trading nation in the world.

In a survey of Canada's growth from 1929-1949 it was found that the population increased from 11,867,000 to nearly 14,000,000.

Steel production per month increased from 120,000 tons to 260,000 tons.

Newsprint production per month from 230,000 tons to 422,000 tons.

Crude oil production per month from 653,000 barrels to 1,895,000 barrels.

Achievements Give Hope:
The gross value of national production, i.e., goods and services, increased during that ten-year period from 1939 to 1949 from \$5,598 millions to \$16,000 millions.

The monthly value of merchandise exports increased from \$77 millions to \$241 millions.

To this remarkable record this country has greatly contributed. It there grounds in that record for doubt and pessimism about Canada and her future?

We have in Canada our differences and we have our disagreements. We should examine and re-examine those differences. We should ever seek to resolve the disagreements by relating them to basic national principles acceptable to the people of our democracy. May the Dominion-Provincial conferences define more clearly those fundamental principles.

Should we despair of establishing to a greater degree those national principles? My answer is that the vision and attainments of 1867 and the achievements of Canada since that date, in peace and in war, afford us hope. I am not speaking in a mood of political partisanship when I remark that the development of national strength has been frequently retarded by politicians who, for selfish ends, would emphasize differences and play one section of the country against the other. That has been a national crime. May we, the electors, teach any future malefactors of that type that crime does not pay.

Diversity in Unity:
I would not be in favor of eradicating the differences among the various sections of Canada — the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. I spoke earlier of the mediocrity of uniformity. It would be disastrous to our national welfare to create a uniform pattern or mould for all parts of Canada, to put all Canadians into a Procrustean bed.

The very genius of democracy is diversity in unity — the opportunity for the individual to fulfil the destiny of his own personality and dignity while he accords to his fellow citizens comparable opportunities, privileges and rights.

Likewise, I assert, the strength of Canada lies in the diversity of the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairie Provinces or British Columbia being developed and expanded within the orbit of national purpose and unity. E pluribus unum. From the many, one in purpose and unity — not one in a deadening uniformity. The striking of the balance between diversity and unity is not an easy task. I have a conviction that it is being achieved in this far-flung federation of Canada.

Differences are compatible with national unity. Paradoxical as it may seem, differences may promote national unity as each part may compete in developing a Canada in which it is recognized that, while the whole is greater than any part, the whole can never be stronger than the weakest part.

Taking Stock
The reconciling of sectional and national interests is not merely — as we often think — a task for governments — Dominion and Provincial. Each of us has an opportunity at hand — this very moment — to contribute to the developing of a deeper spirit of national unity. That opportunity can be found in our business and professional affairs.

The God of War destroyed human and material sources at a staggering rate, and his hungry maw is not satisfied. He bred weariness, bitterness and hatred. On the other hand, it may be counted to his credit that he opened up for us, as Canadians, new vistas. Despite, or perhaps by reason of, the policies of those who would, for evil ends, throttle the mind and enchain the spirit of mankind, there are vigorous and constructive impulses for a world of decency and order.

E. P. Head
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Health Unit Says Cough Vaccine Good

The criticism has been made that whooping cough vaccine does not prevent the disease. Any physician who has had experience in this disease will agree that it does not completely prevent the disease but it usually does and, if the disease does occur, it will be milder.

The Halton County Health Unit has analyzed the immunization history of 31 children who have recently contracted this disease in the Acton-Georgetown district. The value of whooping cough vaccine is well shown. Of the 31 cases, 22 children had not received any injection of whooping cough vaccine, 8 had received the original course only, and only 1 had received the recommended original course and booster dose. No cases occurred within 1 year after the injections, 5 cases 1 to 2 years after the protective doses, 2 after 3 to 5 years and 1 case over 5 years after the original course.

Thus, the protective value of whooping cough vaccine is well illustrated. Parents would be well advised to seek this protection, particularly for infants and pre-school children, from their family physician or through the Child Health Centres maintained by the Halton County Health Unit.

Remember, this disease kills more children under 5 years than do all other communicable diseases combined.

THE ANSWER

"Tell us the course you'd take," he asked,
Of the man grown old and gray;
"Could you turn back time, live
your years again,
With the wisdom you've learned
today."

"The road we all must tread," he said,
"Up the mountain of endless height,
Live again the darkening afternoon,
That can only end in the night!"

"There still would be the morn of
doubt,
The sting of the wind-driven rain,
The burning rays of the noon-day
heat,
And the narrow aisle of pain."

"The far dim ledge on the mountain
side,
Where ease from the toil seemed
mine,
Only to find when I reached that
ledge,
I'd higher still to climb."

"Too late perhaps but now I know,
Though life seemed a troubled sea,
The trouble was not with life alone
The trouble was mostly me."

"Could I turn back time, if that
were so?"
And his thoughts seemed far away;
"I would only try and more trusting
be,
Of Him who guards each day."

Bill Taylor,
Water St.

AN ECHO

The autumn leaves are falling,
And somehow there's voices calling
Across a waste of waters,
From a land we used to know;
Where a silvery stream is flowing,
On its banks the pines are growing,
And the briars and the rowans,
Shining in the sunset's glow.

There's a hill-side boulder strewn,
And the homestead that was hewn,
Severe and deep the furrows,
Some misgivings now and then;
The cot its white walls shining,
Round the door the roses climbing,
The welcome home at even
And the stillness of the glen.

In the breeze the leaves are flutter-
ing,
In the whispering and muttering,
The long lost forms and faces
In review seem passing there;
The moon her soft light shedding,
While the well-known paths we're
treading,
And a peacefulness that's nameless,
In the scented evening air.

The blacksmith's forge a-glowing,
With the creaking bellows blowing,
The rhythm of his labours,
And the sparks like wind-driven
spray;
Somewhere a violin sobbing,
Sets every heart a-throbbing,
The heart-ache in the music,
Keeps on haunting us today.

The something we've been seeking,
While time is onward sweeping,
Seems somehow to evade us,
In these days so fraught with care;
(Through a mistland, back, we're
straying,
Seem to hear that violin playing),
On a hillside bathed in moonlight
Maybe we left it there.

BILL TAYLOR,
Water St., Georgetown.

A book dictated by Marco Polo in prison was the most popular source of European knowledge of the far east for three centuries.

Monkeys were once thought to prevent drunkenness.

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