

FRENCH CANADA HAS TO DEFEND GREAT CULTURE

Premier Urges Constant Vigilance in Message

Celebrates Festival of St. Jean-Baptiste

Ottawa, June 23.—(CP)—French-Canadians, as trustees of the traditions of French culture, must be the first to "defend all that France has, until recently, represented in the world," Prime Minister Mackenzie King declared to-day in a message to French Canada on the occasion of the annual celebration of St. Jean-Baptiste day, June 24.

These things, the Prime Minister said, were "culture, beauty, love of work and, above all, lover of liberty." He recalled that just a year ago, when France had suffered "a defeat without precedent in her history," he had issued a similar message.

"Duty Still Yours"

"On this festival of the patron saint of French Canada," he said, "I again remind you that this duty is still yours and that it becomes more imperative as France is forced to submit more and more to the exactions and outrages of an implacable victor."

The struggle would be hard and long, but "we have every reason to hope," he added. All Canada was united in the struggle.

"We have also every reason to work without faltering. We must put aside paltry quarrels, often fostered by our enemy, to concentrate on the great work of victory," the Prime Minister said.

He said he hoped the holiday might be set aside in honour of the heroism of those in the front line of battle, those "in the factory and on the farm" who were providing the materials of victory, those "who lend and give" to their country and those "who in the humility of their heart pray for victory."

"It is by such acts," he declared, "that we shall conquer."

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Handwritten notes and scribbles, including the word "Duty" and other illegible markings.