

and that they were their own masters, both in regard to England, and the other states. This, according to my mind, has been a rather equivocal statement of the position which Canada occupies to-day, both in relation to England, and to the other states. I know it is rather hard and humiliating to say those things to my fellow-citizens, but just the same I feel bound to say it for the purpose of pointing out what is the duty of Canada to-day with regard to the request which is being made upon her by England to assist her in the coming commercial battle. I venture to state that Canada, in this year of 1910, according to the teaching of international law, is simply a province of the British empire, having no status whatever with regard to foreign states. Our country does not possess any of the characteristics (which number eight or ten altogether), of what is called state, and which make an aggregation of people irresponsible to any human power, but—to use a phrase of the fifteenth century—'Responsible only to God.' If I examine the classification of states, I am forced to admit that our country is neither a sovereign state, like England; nor a semi-sovereign state, like Bulgaria was; nor a neutral state, like Belgium, nor a state under protectorate like Tunis; nor even a tributary state like Egypt. Comparison of conditions is here of a great benefit to teach our citizens the truth about their reduced political rank in the eyes of the world. With a political organism subject to the caprices of the parliament at Westminster; without power to make its territories productive by foreign trade; without jurisdiction to pass undefeasible laws; unable to protect its citizens abroad before judicial or administrative authorities; unable to ask for marks of respect; unable to send diplomatic agents; unentitled to foreign recognition; incapable of making treaties, unable, unless authorized to do so, to issue letters patent of command either to army officers or to navy officers even to defend her own territory; here stands Canada to-day, calling herself a nation. By telling my fellow-citizens what we really are, I hope I may convey to them the aspiration of being what they might be. While I am making a rather poor picture of the personality of Canada to-day, I am bound to think that this naval move will tend to increase tremendously the importance of our country, and that is why I am in favour of the passing of this Bill.

Canada to-day has not even the right to speak to a minister of foreign affairs, even through her Prime Minister, unless the latter has been clothed with a letter patent issued by the British Minister of Foreign Affairs. So much so, is this, that during the negotiations of the Franco-Canadian treaty, the Hon. Mr. Fielding, and the

Hon. Mr. Brodeur, had to be authorized very minutely by England to speak to the Minister of Trade and Commerce of France, and had to be introduced to the latter by the British Ambassador, in Paris. Let me cite, as the only fact which gives to Canada, what may be styled a recognition by a foreign power, that clause of the Franco-Canadian treaty which allows an employee appointed by Canada to certify bills of lading, or certificates of origin of goods, which may have a legal value. That is about the limit of the action of our country in relation to foreign countries.

I apologize for reminding the House that but a few weeks ago, the Canadian agent in Antwerp had to haul down his sign marked 'Canadian Agency' at the request of the British consul in that city, under the pretence that such action on behalf of the Canadian agent would create possible confusion in the minds of the citizens of Belgium as to the political status of Canada. Canada has no flag, if we do not accept as such the emblem which our merchantmen were some years ago empowered to unfurl at their mastheads. And I do not need to argue very long to show that of international status Canada has none, because the very name of our country 'Dominion,' which our French translators have very proudly, but improperly, translated into the word 'puissance,' should remind us that we are but a domain of the Crown; to use the language of the Act of 1834, defining the powers of the Privy Council of England, and giving to that final tribunal an unlimited jurisdiction over any judgment given by any court in any colony, 'Dominion,' or plantation of His Majesty. In a general way, I could point out many other cases of deception arising out of our political and administrative termino.

If we examine now the status of Canada under the light of the public law of England, what do we discover? One finds that, though a delegation of powers, a federal legislative body, and nine provincial legislatures are supervising private intercourse between our citizens, the application of the civil laws of France, or the common law of England, the appointment of judges to decide litigations arising out of about 20 contracts, and finally looking over the administration of municipal affairs. No constitutional guarantee, in the constitutional Act of 1867, is to be found limiting the power of Great Britain to impose taxes upon its citizens in Canada. If we look at sections 91 and 92 of that Act, we find that even our power to naturalize British subjects is very limited, because our naturalized British subjects are considered as such exclusively within the territory of Canada, and they are not British subjects within the British Isles, nor even in any British colony outside of Canada. If we examine