

of the Conference or will he cry "Havoe! and let slip the dogs of war". This too we shall see.

I have dwelt upon the significance of these three men because of their representative character as leaders of political elements on whose coalescence the success of the Conference depends. They were great leaders, they had the gift of statesmanship, without them the Confederation of Canada was impossible, and what would have happened, had they not cast aside the swaddling clouts of the partizan, no one can tell.

Outside this group there are others to be noted, particularly Charles Tupper who so nobly led his own province into Confederation after years of strife; and Samuel Leonard Tilley, who rendered a similar service in the Province of New Brunswick. But I cannot mention them all by name worthy though they be; I must hurry on.

For eighteen days the Conference sat, discussed, reflected, adjourned, met again, proposed resolutions, withdrew them and finally formulated a plan of union in seventy-two resolutions out of which a nation has been born. Eighteen eventful days, the culmination of many years of agitation, but the beginning of a greater Canada than the most sanguine of those who sat around that able ever entertained.

What did they agree upon? By their first resolution they agreed that "The best interests and future prosperity of British North America will be promoted by a Federal Union under the Crown of Great Britain". Mark the words "A Federal Union under the Crown of Great Britain", something never attempted before. Is the Conference making a mistake? Here is another experiment to be made in Nation building in the Western Hemisphere. The first was the Republic of the United States in 1776, not yet through its great Civil War. That was a federal union independent of Great Britain, now it is fighting for its life. This time it is to be a federal union under the British Crown, something unknown to the British Constitution. Would it, too, have to struggle for its existence? But these are bold men; let them alone. They began well. Not annexation, but a union of Canada under the Crown is the corner-stone of the new fabric.

Second Resolution. "Provision shall be made for admission into the Union of Newfoundland, the Northwest Territories, British Columbia and Vancouver". Very good again. It is not to be a fragmentary Canada bounded by the great lakes, important as they are, but it is to be a Canada reaching out to the Pacific, laved by two oceans; no pent-up Utica, but a semi-Continental Canada. Are these men dreaming or have they seen a vision, or are they Seers like the great statesmen who gave England her Constitution, or like the founders of the United States at whose foresight we are lost in wonder and admiration. No. We now know they were not dreamers.