

Again I find myself in complete agreement with the Prime Minister.

Finally, on page 813 I find these words:

The united national support of each dominion for its war effort will continue throughout the war to be more important than all else. Under constantly changing conditions, that unity will, I believe, be better maintained by the presence of the prime minister at the head of the administration at home than at the council table in London.

Upon the latter sentence I shall not make any pronouncement; my point of view would be that it is the Prime Minister's own business whether he stays at home or goes abroad. We elected him to use his discretion, and whatever he chooses to do he will have my support in doing it. With the former sentence I heartily agree.

What I am going to say next may meet with less approval than what I have already said. I have said two or three times that when I felt that the government were following policies injurious to the Dominion of Canada I would take every opportunity to oppose those policies, and would indicate the points on which I believed they were in error. I should like to quote now some small excerpts from the supplementary submission by the government of the province of New Brunswick to the royal commission on dominion-provincial relations. It is not my desire to raise the contentious question of the Sirois report, but I believe that commission served a great purpose to this country in that it caused people everywhere to think about our problems and elicited from every province valuable comments upon its particular problems as well as suggestions for their solution. Having said that, I quote some words which I think will be unpalatable to most hon. members. On page 3, referring to confederation they say:

The result has been that confederation has not conduced in any way to the welfare of New Brunswick, and has been disastrous to this province.

Thus the main object of the union has been nullified and this has given rise to practically all the difficulties which now exist.

Those words are sufficiently solemn to require no comment from me. Then I read from page 6 of the same document:

Canada can only be great if it carries out its obligations. National unity can be developed and exist only on the basis of a national economy, not an international economy.

It would be unfair for me to read into those words an interpretation which perhaps they were not intended to convey, but I think everyone will grant that a person is at least free to suggest that the writer had in mind economic nationalism rather than such dependence upon trade as we have had.

I read next from page 4 of the same document. Speaking of Canada, the writer says:

Its duty is toward the provinces as provinces.

And again:

Nearly \$300,000,000 of the public money of Canada are invested in the United States for the development and operation of railways, harbour facilities and even coal mines in that country.

It would take too long for me to comment on that remark. Perhaps some day I shall say more about it.

Finally, I read from page 6:

In any federal union each province or state should have a fair deal and centralization of power is fatal to the union. Centralization is unthinkable under the confederation of the British North American provinces scattered across the continent. If centralization is persisted in by parliament there is an apparent danger that it will destroy confederation.

It will now be apparent to hon. members why I selected as my text the Prime Minister's solemn remark as to the importance of Canadian unity. Doubtless all hon. members have been as much alarmed as I have by the tendency toward centralization which is apparent at the present time. I have in my hand the A.M. Papers of February 17, issued by the Department of Munitions and Supply, setting forth the contracts awarded in the week ended on that date. I find that of 110 contracts fifty-eight were placed in Ontario, thirty-one in Quebec, only eight in British Columbia, six in Manitoba, two in New Brunswick, two in Alberta, two in Saskatchewan and only one in Nova Scotia.

When the Minister of Munitions and Supply (Mr. Howe) was being criticized on this score the other day, he defended himself by pointing out that orders were placed where they could be filled. I am not questioning that; what I am pointing out now is that in the Dominion of Canada a development has been going on which has so centralized the industry of this nation that it has become necessary to place these orders in the two central provinces. May I hasten to say that I am not finding fault in any way with Quebec or Ontario. The people of those two provinces are good Canadians and are entitled to their full share of the good things available in this nation. But let it not be forgotten for one moment that the people of every one of the nine provinces of Canada have an equal right. If that is forgotten, then unquestionably the unity of this country will be threatened, or, if not the unity, at least the strength.

May I cite another example of the dangerous centralization which is going on in Canada