

QUEBEC WILL NOT BREAK LAST TIE WITH BRITAIN

Hon. Louis Taschereau, Premier of Quebec, Declared in Speech At Toronto—Was One of Ten On Whom the University of Toronto Conferred Honorary Degrees—Appeals For Better Understanding Between the Two Provinces.

TORONTO, June 9. — Honorary degrees were conferred by the University of Toronto tonight upon ten men eminent in public affairs and in literature. One of these, Hon. Louis Taschereau, premier of Quebec, who received the degree of doctor of law, was given an ovation by an audience that was made up largely of prominent persons of this city. Hon. Mr. Taschereau was only one of the recipients of university honors to give an address, and it was received with manifest pleasure and generous applause.

The premier of Quebec spoke in English. The keynote of his address was an appeal for a better understanding between the people of the province of Ontario and the province of Quebec. Speaking of the attitude of his province on the question of appeals from Canadian courts to the privy council, Hon. Mr. Taschereau said Quebec would not pull on its end to sever this, the so-called last tie, with the mother country. This sentiment was received with hearty applause.

Premier E. C. Drury, LL. D., said the recipient of the degree of LL. D. in presenting Hon. Mr. Drury to Sir William Meredith, chancellor of the university, for the degree, Sir Robert Falconer, president of the university, remarked that a large number of Canadian statesmen had come from France.

"Present weather conditions," said President Falconer, "are that the average."

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are particularly happy to see maturing between the two great provinces of our fair Dominion. It is in this spirit, Sir, that I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness towards me and my fellow-countrymen of Quebec.

"May I be permitted, now that I carry the full weight and authority of doctor-in-law of the University of Toronto, to deal shortly with some legal problems that may be of interest to Canada as a whole and are much discussed in my province. I want to be very frank, feeling that frankness and open talk between Ontario and Quebec are the best results, and I wonder whether, in the past, we have not sometimes been sinners in this respect. I believe that I shall not shock even a Toronto audience when I state that 80 per cent of the population of Quebec is French. Two hundred years ago my ancestors came from Old France, for the freedom of which Ontario's young and noblest blood has been recently shed. I am proud of my ancestry; the history of my family is that of our Quebec families. But I beg of you to remember that real Canadianism, I view of the country, loyalty, and the British fair play to all are as true and vigorous in my own province as in any other of the Dominion.

A Sacred Heritage.
"Our forefathers, when they opened Canada to civilization, brought with them, in addition to their implements to till the soil and level the forests, a set of laws which in the olden days made the greatness of Rome and afterwards became the foundation of the civilization and progress of France. These laws respond to French ideals, French traditions, French characteristics, French customs. Is it therefore surprising that they have been retained by the people of Quebec, who consider them a sacred heritage, which they will bequeath to their sons as pure and unadulterated as they received them?"

"I impose the French laws on England, they will fail. Rule France by the laws of England, the result will be disastrous. Each people has its own mentality. The laws must be made to fit the people; the people cannot be made to fit the laws."

"If you will agree with me so far, I will ask you to go a step further and grant that, in our Canada, inhabited by the two great races, the English and the French, each retaining its ethical traditions and ideals, customs and modes of thought, even whims and fancies, uniformity of law is an impossibility."

"I am well aware that some of our best legal minds, prompted by a real Canadian spirit, have advocated an all-Canadian code. I will unhesitatingly pay tribute to their disinterested motives and genuine desire to improve our Canadian legislation, but, to my mind, they are chasing a rainbow. History supports my contention. When Canada was ceded to England, the British statesmen of 1763 understood that the possibility of imposing even on the little group of sixty thousand Frenchmen left in Canada, their own civil laws, British wisdom and foresight prevailed then and our ancestors retained their heritage."

"Now, that we are 2,000,000 with nearly two additional centuries of a peaceful and undisturbed exercise of these laws, can it be expected that the time for a change has arrived? I pray, gentlemen, do not throw in to the melting pot your English and our French laws; they will not blend, and the result, I feel sure, will be unsatisfactory to both provinces."

Healthy Competition.
"I believe in a peaceful and healthy competition, between the sister provinces, in the legal field. Let both races vie with each other in the framing of their laws, with their respective wants and ideals in view, and fear not the result. Might I add that, in the British Isles, uniformity of laws does not exist and I am not aware that the mother country is a sufferer from this condition of things."

"How does Quebec feel on the advisability of appeals to the privy council, we are often asked? And then come the resulting questions: Are we not a self-governing country? Does not Canada possess judicial minds big enough, to sit in court of last resort? Why leave the ultimate interpretation of our laws to men who often know very little of Canada? Is not the privy council the rich man's court? Are not the long delays and heavy expenses incident to these appeals, a serious impediment to the best administration of justice?"

"Strange to say, these objections do not, as a rule, come from the French province of Quebec."

"Although we feel that too many cases are brought before the privy council, and that the class of appeals should be restricted, although we also know that matters are so arranged that the assistance of an English counsel is almost necessary, with all the resulting retentions and refreshers, which sometimes do not retain, but surely never refresh our poor clients. Nevertheless, I believe it is the general desire of my province, that, especially in constitutional cases, the right of appeal should be maintained."

Confederation a Compromise.
"The Canadian confederation was a compromise. Half a century of martial progress and development, the wisdom and foresight of the men who framed it. But when so many conflicts of a racial, religious or ethnic nature are liable to arise, have we not all a greater sense of security from the fact that the decisions to be rendered will come from the men who preside over the privy council, men remote from our local strifes and disputes, unprejudiced by their surroundings?"

"To express my thoughts in a few words, I will venture to say that in a country such as ours, which is blessed with minorities, the privy council is the protection of these minorities. Solicitors for minorities is not unknown to British fair play and constitutional principles."

"Enjoying this blessing, if we want Canada to progress in peace, harmony and concord—and surely this is our common desire, as we feel that national unity and material development hinge on a true Canadian spirit—is it not necessary that some of those vexed questions, unfortunately have divided us in the past should be finally settled by men whose decisions will not be open to the charge of sectionalism or provincialism. To my mind there is nothing so destructive to respect due to the law—and after all is not this respect the foundation of our civilization—as to see the members of a court, on a racial or religious question, divided apparently according to their own religious or racial feelings? Such things have happened and such a result cannot satisfy public opinion."

"I am aware that decisions of the privy council, what might call international matters have sometimes been open to the reproach of being founded on imperial interests at large, with the result that Canadian interests suffered heavily. I claim for myself, however, in diplomacy, but leave the answer to this reproach to those who wish to retain for Canada the full and unfettered rights and privileges of her young progressive neighborhood."

One of the Last Ties.
"The appeal to the privy council is a tie, one of the last ties we are sometimes told, between Canada and the mother country. A tie may be broken, but it will not pull on its end; Quebec will not pull on her end, but let us hope there will not be too many

unwise pullers on the other end. "Perhaps you will find that I am talking too much of Quebec, but a last point of view of this good old province may be of some interest to you."

"My fellow-countrymen have the deepest respect for the administration of justice, feeling that progress, both moral and material, rests upon it. Imbued with this idea they think that justice should be administered by men versed and trained in law, in other words by judges."

"Canadian judiciary is second to none in the civilized world for legal science, honesty and uprightness. Impachment is only to be found in our statute books. I believe that our system of judicial appointments is the best, as it makes the judges independent of politics and places them above popular fancies. But, precisely because our judiciary is above reproach, as much at least as any human institution can be, we are in our province, that the judicial field is becoming daily too much encroached upon by commissions. I believe in a captain to steer his ship, in a soldier to command soldiers, and in a judge to expound the law."

A Most Precious Blessing.
"Far from me the idea of criticizing any commission, past or present, but speaking for the future, I wonder if we should not stop and pause and all agree that judges and courts of justice are certainly the best medium to mete out to the people human justice, which, with all its shortcomings and failings, is, after all, one of God's most precious blessings to mankind."

"I have perhaps expressed opinions that are not shared by all of you, but it is the privilege of a lawyer to disagree with his conferees. If we all agreed, our income tax would become rather a light burden."

"A point on which, however, we are all agreed, is that the University of Toronto has given the bar men remarkably well-equipped to serve the ends of justice as lawyers and on the bench. This I know from personal association, but I am at the same time voicing the general feeling of members of my profession in Quebec, who closely follow the judicial life of your province."

"In the annals of our Canadian parliament, how many names of our great statesmen there are that will everlastingly testify to the very high standard of education and broad culture which they received in the University of Toronto."

"Much enormous as your university deserves for numbering among its graduates so many of the leading men of our country, there is something to my mind that should render its name even more illustrious. It is for the University of Toronto to fashion the hearts and brains of succeeding generations according to the highest standard of Canadianism, that is to leave no place to racial animosity and religious antagonism and, while teaching the youth loyalty and devotion to their province, to

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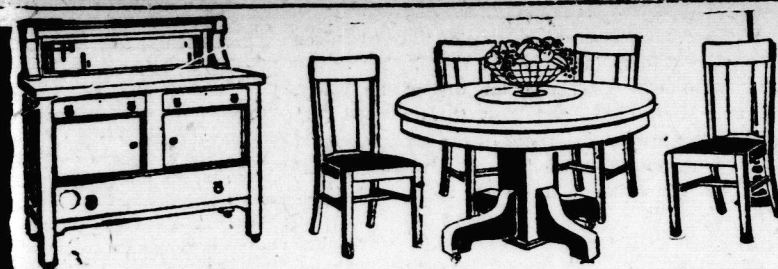
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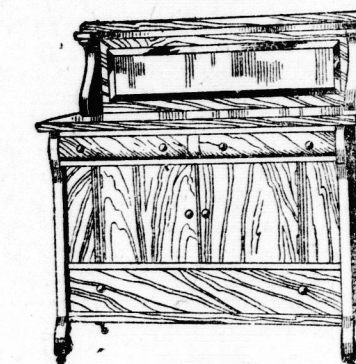
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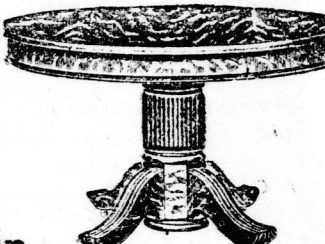
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"Our universities can do a great deal, depending about this deeper understanding and fuller co-operation. They are the medium through which the mind of the leading men in each generation is formed, and they create the primary and secondary schools. Let then all those who have more responsibility because their influence covers a wider field seek to acquire better knowledge of each other."

"I do not exactly remember the words used by Stuart Hill. But he wrote 'Some where the truth does not shine as the sun does, and that in order to see it, it is not sufficient to wait for it. We

must go and seek after it."

"To show how two big minds may agree together, although their creed and language are not the same, Stuart Hill while commenting upon law and justice: 'Il faut, chercher de soi-même et aller au-devant de la vérité, nous voulons la découvrir.'—If we would discover truth, we must seek and find it ourselves."

"There I believe, we have in both languages the golden rule for our two provinces; it is for Ontario to come nearer to Quebec, and for Quebec to have a closer relationship with Ontario."

CORONER DR. A. J. JOHNSON

TORONTO, June 9.—Dr. Arthur

Jones Johnson, chief coroner of Toronto, died today. Dr. Johnson was

born in this city 71 years ago. He was

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published two books: "Requests for

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