

were making that fight for the liberties of all Protestants against the arbitrary power of an English ruler, he was opposed at the polls by one of the most noteworthy representatives of the Protestant minority, the Honourable Peter McGill, founder of the great University which bears his name.

It may not be out of place to recall that these efforts of a Catholic people to do justice to all Protestants were displayed not far from half a century before an enraged mob in London forced a British government and a majority in the British Parliament to enact laws forbidding the restoration of the Roman Catholic Episcopacy in the free Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Such historical remembrances should help in eliminating the fears of those who believe that the liberties of Protestant Ulster will be at an end the day Ireland is ruled by a Catholic majority.

An Ulster in Quebec: the Eastern Townships

The history of Quebec offers further lessons of hope and optimism for the future of Ireland and her Protestant minority.

The British had implanted in Ulster a colony of stern Presbyterians from Scotland, to split the block of Roman Catholicism and eventually to dominate Ireland. Likewise, the British government gave the Eastern Townships of Quebec to a strong group of United Empire Loyalists in order to counteract and eventually to overcome the French. After the Rebellion of 1837-38, when the proposal for uniting Upper and Lower Canada was discussed in the British Parliament, some favoured the Union because, in their mind, it was the only means of subduing the French; others, as the Duke of Wellington, opposed it, because they thought it was unjust for the English of Upper Canada to have to deal with so many French people. Very few considered the viewpoint of the French-Canadians. Naturally, the Union, displeasing both peoples, worked badly for both and for the whole province. From this struggle the idea of Confederation eventually emerged.

This time, the question was not primarily discussed and settled in London. The terms of Confederation were practically agreed upon and even given statutory form at the Quebec Conference, before they were sanctioned in the Imperial parliament. In spite of long standing feuds and rivalry, French and English in Canada had not much trouble in coming to an understanding. There was, however, one dissentient voice, and this was the voice of the Protestants in Quebec, — of the Ulster of French Canada.

To make matters easy, the French Canadians consented to have inserted in the constitution special guarantees for the Protestant minority in Quebec, which were not thought necessary for the protection of the French minorities in the English provinces.

Not satisfied with this, the representatives of the Eastern Townships went to London and fought to the last against the adoption of the British North America Act.

What has been the sequence?