

find that in those days there was strong support for a legislative union with a system of government providing a single parliament for the whole country. However, the fathers of confederation, in their good judgment and in the light of the then existing conditions, could not be expected to foresee the future of almost a century and they decided upon a federation which provided for provincial governments as well as a central and national government.

There were difficult problems to settle in bringing about confederation, difficulty as to division of power between the national and the provincial governments. Many of those difficulties are with us today. They are so great and so important that it is becoming abundantly clear that, until we settle them, our progress as a nation will be hampered and our plans for the good and welfare of our people will fall short of what we would have them be.

In the confederation debates in Upper Canada in 1865 a supporter of confederation said:

I am satisfied that one of the great advantages of this union will be found in this, that we will be raised above our sectionalism and come to feel and act as the citizens of a great country.

Canadians everywhere tonight reecho that wish. If we are to achieve the greatness which we deserve; if we are to attain to our rightful destiny we must face up to our problems, not as Ontario Canadians, not as maritime Canadians, not as Quebec Canadians or not as western Canadians; we must face up to them as Canadians. The problems which we face are of such magnitude as to test our best Canadianism.

I said that there was general disappointment of the failure of the dominion-provincial conferences and there has been some discussion in an attempt to assess the blame for those failures. However, I think the people of Canada are not merely so concerned as to who was responsible for the failure of those conferences as they are concerned with the fact that the failure of the dominion and the provinces to come to an agreement is holding up many measures of vital concern to the future of the Canadian people. This government's social security programme cannot be fully effective until some agreement is reached between this government and all the provinces. The issues at stake are so great and so far-reaching that, even in the face of what might seem to be impossible and

insurmountable barriers, I should like to see this government take the lead in making another attempt to settle this question. I think the only way to settle these problems satisfactorily is to call a dominion-provincial conference, and I submit that this government would be rendering a great national service by reconvening the conference at as early a day as possible.

When such a conference is held—and I hope it will be—I suggest that those who sit around the conference table representing the provinces and the dominion should discuss something more than who is to tax whom, and how much. I am sure the people of Canada would like to see the representatives of the provinces and of this national government discuss seriously, honestly and free from provincial or political bias, the problem of overgovernment in Canada. We should like to see them discussing in a businesslike manner the ways and means of eliminating duplication of services rendered by the national and other branches of administration. Overgovernment is a burden on the taxpayers of Canada; it continues to grow and it is a burden about which we do very little.

I am sure the people of Canada would like to hear representatives at a dominion-provincial conference discuss a national health policy which would ensure our people against the economic disaster which is visited upon so many through sickness and disease. We should like to see the representatives of the provinces and the dominion agree on a policy of cooperation in the establishment of a hospital building programme which would provide adequate and modern hospital facilities, not only in the great centres of population but in the small communities all across Canada. We should like to see the dominion and provincial leaders discuss ways and means whereby our aged citizens would be better cared for.

The people of Canada would like to hear a discussion at this conference of the matter of jurisdiction and responsibility, so that cooperation would be possible in a great national plan of reforestation whereby the rich resources of our land could be perpetuated for coming generations and our waste spaces made fruitful and productive. These and many other great national problems might well be the topic of discussion at a reconvened dominion-provincial conference, with the possibility of great good to all the people of Canada.

Understanding within our borders is one of our primary needs today, and I repeat that this makes the matter of dominion-provincial relations one of our leading internal problems. To meet the challenges which we face, to meet the problems which confront us, we must have a