

-3-

I say all this, of course, with the utmost deference, and only to let you see the point of view I have taken. The circumstance that you see possible dangerous consequences, even in the suggestions made, will, of course, cause me to be doubly cautious as respects such further consideration and discussion as the subject may receive.

Perhaps I should point out, however, that it is not a question of avoiding any amendment to the constitution, as the matter has arisen out of two proposed amendments which the Government have upon the Order Paper. Also, I happen to know that the Government itself was contemplating this very proposal, though I am not sure that their thought was to bring it forward in anything like the guarded manner in which my suggestion was put forth. Had I not spoken as and when I did, the Opposition would have had to consider, before this session was over, whether they would oppose a proposal of the kind when put forward by the Government. Opposition to the proposal would have landed us just where we were last session, when the Government, to a certain degree, succeeded in making it appear that the Liberal Party was seeking to maintain a "little Canadian" and colonial attitude through a failure to appreciate the growing sentiment for national recognition and expression.

As I view the matter, it is just a part of the Liberal position as taken all along in the struggle for responsible self-government. It was thought that the granting of this right would lead to separation. It is the one thing that has preserved British connection. The semblance of an inferior status remains, where the substance has disappeared; the semblance is about all the separatists have left in the way of ammunition. In the interest of British connection, I would hesitate to allow them to manufacture substance out of a shadow.