

works very hard and he is a gentleman of considerable courtesy and ability. He may have seen somebody with regard to this legislation when he was over in Great Britain; I do not know. Let me tell him, however, that Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will have something to say about this proposed resolution, and it cannot be passed by the parliament of Great Britain without their consent.

After all is said and done, the British North America Act as it has been used in connection with this parliamentary reform resolution is full of inconsistencies, contradictions, duplication, provisos, exceptions and qualifications. Every means have been taken to secure federal authority. Federal power in Canada is at its lowest ebb since confederation. Federal power is being administered from the provincial capitals, not from Ottawa. That is what they tried to do in 1927 and at that time they were in power in nearly all the provincial capitals. We want a British North America Act for the living, not for the dead. There were no so-called experts in those days. The drafters were only ordinary lawyers.

I wonder who drafted this resolution and the proposed bill? I remember a parliament, called the unlearned parliament in history, that met at Coventry in 1344 to discuss parliamentary reform. They decided that there should be no lawyers or sheriffs in it; they did not want any lawyers there, and the sheriffs were too busy executing their people. It was said in 1344 the lawyers were not wanted because they were too busy with the idea of getting some customers or clients. However, no doubt they do it for nothing. The Minister of Justice and the law society of to-day know more about that than I do, or than they did in 1344. I have never been before the law society, although I have been a member of the bar for a good many years.

The people in the constituencies back home will not be satisfied with the view that has been given. The Minister of Justice mentioned the senate several times. Representation there was changed so that one province had four senators, another province had a few more and so on. The representation was arranged in geometrical and arithmetical progression. Each province has so many more than the others. When they get over to England, what is the government going to do? I think the mother country has enough to do to look after conditions over there without being bothered by us.

First, let us do something primary. Let us regain our real representation; let us recover the rights, privileges and functions which we

used to have in olden days. Let us go farther and see to it that there is equality of treatment and that we have a real system of representation. The last census caught Ontario napping. Thousands of its citizens were out of the province. There were two regiments in Bermuda and Jamaica. I have looked over the census list and have found a great many mistakes. This resolution should be held over for at least a year.

I believe the system is all wrong. It is not electoral reform. If the government want a real electoral reform, let them bring it down instead of bringing down electoral reform for some constituencies and not for others. We should have real representation by population in parliament. Let us put a fair construction on section 51, not the construction put on it in the Prince Edward Island case by the law courts. After all, this is the high court of parliament. The courts of this country are subservient to the legislature. That is one of the cardinal principles of our constitution. If we do not like what the courts do, we can change it. The court that gives substantial justice is the privy council. I believe a litigant can get justice over there. Had it not been for the decisions of that great body, we would not have had the great publicly owned power system in Ontario, nor would there be so many privileges enjoyed by urban workers and farmers and the public generally throughout the province.

I want to see the province of Quebec have justice. It is a great province. It stood by the mother country in other days. As Sir Eugene Tache said, "In defence of Canada the last shot will be fired by a French Canadian." I do not believe it was the view of the fathers of confederation that we should have a make-shift system that would be under the control of the government of the day which has only a slim majority. It has to advocate a great socialist programme in order to keep itself in office.

I urge that this whole matter be shelved for another year. We should not bother the mother country at the present time about our domestic affairs because she is so busy with many local problems. I did not wish to take part in this debate but I believed it was my duty as a representative of the people to do so. Ontario has not sufficient representation in the cabinet and yet she pays 29 per cent of the taxes. That is not real representation by population, at all. There is no such thing as a pure Grit on the government benches. I admire a pure Grit. I remember the other day seeing the grave of Robert Baldwin in the cemetery. He was a clear Grit and for representation by population.