

properly volunteer to the imperial authorities direct to enroll a corps. I cannot find that I am debarred, as an officer of the militia, from any privilege which Canadian citizenship confers upon her sons. Any citizen of Canada can enroll himself in the imperial service independently of the general officer commanding or of the Canadian government. In case I, for example, undertook to enroll a corps of Canadians for imperial service, or enrolled myself alone, I could do so, merely resigning my Canadian commission before accepting the imperial, even supposing the Canadian authorities were adversely inclined to such action. Were they friendly they could and would manage as is now done for imperial officers in Canada's service that both commissions be retained.

Those are my views. They were my views in 1899 and they are mine to-day on the question of allegiance.

An hon. MEMBER. Is that taken from a sessional paper?

Mr. HUGHES. I am quoting from 'Hansard' of 1901, Vol. 1, page 394. My view on the question of allegiance is this: I regard the empire as a pyramid of which the people constitute the great foundation. Then we have minor divisions. We have townships, towns, school sections and so on. We have the superior divisions of counties, the still larger divisions of provinces, and the larger still of dominions. And over and above all there is the empire. My allegiance in minor matters goes to my own municipality as against the adjoining ones. In county matters, it goes to my own county over its neighbours. In provincial matters it goes to the province of Ontario over all others. In Dominion matters it goes to Canada over Australia or any other part of the empire; but in national matters it goes to the empire of Britain and not to Canada. There is the allegiance that I owe; and when the right hon. gentleman talks of suzerainty, let me inform him that he does not understand the question of this country as I believe the fathers of confederation understood it. We want no more prating about autonomy, no more talk about 'ripe fruit dropping off the tree', or about 'sister nations'. Each is supreme in its own sphere and should have a voice in the affairs of the empire. But the pyramid is incomplete in three ways. First, the oversea dominions, have as yet no voice or vote in the affairs of the empire. Second, the parliament of Britain is not adapted for administering, under its present constitution, an empire of this kind, and therefore should be remodelled. In Britain they have their minor subdivisions or counties and shires, but they have no provincial subdivisions and I can see no reason why they should not, according to my reading of the British North America Act as applied to Canada. Nevertheless has South Africa deemed it advisable to have any provincial

divisions? But in case such should be found to be necessary, I will take the liberty of suggesting that the judicial districts into which England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales are divided might be taken as the basis of provincial division in Britain. In England and Wales there are nine judicial divisions, in Scotland three, and in Ireland there are the old provinces of Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connaught. And, if they wish to confer upon these any extra privileges, and any extra provincial power, let us see what could be given them under the British North America Act.

The amendment from time to time, notwithstanding in this Act, of the constitution of the province, except as regards the office of lieutenant governor.

Nothing wrong about that.

Direct taxation within the province in order to the raising of a revenue for provincial purposes.

Nothing wrong with that.

The borrowing of money on the sole credit of a province.

I don't see anything wrong with that.

The establishment and tenure of provincial offices, and the appointment and payment of provincial officers.

That is necessary.

The management and sale of the public lands belonging to the province and the timber and wood thereon.

They have none, so that will not be necessary.

The establishment, maintenance and management of public and reformatory prisons in and for the province.

I do not see anything wrong with that.

The establishment, maintenance and management of hospitals, asylums, charities and eleemosynary institutions in and for the province, other than marine hospitals.

I do not see anything wrong with that.

Municipal institutions in the province.

They have these institutions already, and these could be placed under provincial jurisdiction.

Shop, saloon, tavern, and auctioneer and other licenses, in order to the raising of a revenue for provincial, local or municipal purposes.

No reason why they should not have that.

Local works and undertakings other than such as are of the following classes,—

Then follows a list that are excluded.

Incorporation of companies with provincial objects.