

Lomer Gouin, work ceaselessly and without faltering for the development and maintenance of the Canadian Confederation.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel that I have kept you sufficiently long, if not altogether too long. Even so it has been only possible, for me to treat the subject in its principal aspects. Those who are specially interested in this momentous question will find it more exhaustively treated in a work which I have just completed and which I hope to have published as soon as the war is over under the title of "Fifty Years Of Confederation." In that work the whole constitutional development of the past fifty years and the great events of that period as far as they affect the relations of Canada and the Mother Country will be found dealt with in detail.*

On the present occasion I have endeavored simply to outline the leading ideals upon which our great Dominion was founded, to point out to you the danger to Canadian autonomy that is contained in the ultra-Imperialistic designs and to emphasize the importance of Canadians, once the war is brought to a victorious close, standing firmly in support of their national ideals and the complete autonomy of the Dominion.

This momentous problem, as well as other vital problems, will undoubtedly come to the front when the war is over and their solution will demand the united energies and patriotism of all Canadians. And when the future is scanned what a glorious vista does it not open up, of struggle and combat, of achievement and triumph! When that vista, indeed, is contemplated, one who has reached the meridian of life but whose vision is ever forward set, would wish that he were, like many of those here to-day are, in the full vigor, strength, fire, energy and enthusiasm of his young manhood, that not only might he strike a blow or two, as he hopes to do, for the cause of liberalism and Canadianism, but that he might also reasonably hope

* As that work will necessarily deal with war questions as well, it is deemed only right by the author to defer its publication until the war is won. In the present address only constitutional aspects are considered.