

May I point out further that the Government of Great Britain has never placed the slightest obstacle in the way of our exercising the fullest measure of autonomous rights, but has trusted to our loyalty and our desire to remain an integral part of the British Empire. We have been allowed to go practically to the limit in the exercise of national or state power, and there is no reason in the world to think that Great Britain is now going to adopt a policy different from that which it has followed hitherto. From statements made in the House of Commons at Westminster we know that there is to-day practically nothing that we could ask Great Britain to allow us to do and that Great Britain would refuse us. Mr. Bonar Law, not many years ago, when he was Prime Minister, declared in the House of Commons that if we asked to-morrow for separation from Great Britain there would be no hesitation in granting it to us.

That brings me to another subject upon which I would like to say a few words—the power to amend the Constitution, which has been demanded by some sections of Canada. There are a great many who do not at the present time wish Canada to acquire the power to amend the Constitution, and I say frankly that I am one of those. I do not think the time is opportune to amend the Canadian Constitution. As I have repeated several times this afternoon, I think our present Constitution is all-sufficient for our purposes. We can, I think, do everything that we may legitimately desire to do under the terms of the B.N.A. Act, and, frankly, I hope that the power to amend the Constitution will not be granted to our Parliament until such time as we have created throughout Canada a proper national sentiment and a proper condition of national unity. We cannot ignore the fact that there are many problems, territorial, geographical, social, moral or intellectual, that we have not yet completely solved, and it will be several years yet before we have created the spirit that will be necessary for the permanent and equitable solution of these problems, some of them purely material and others of a spiritual kind. The two great races who form the basis of this Confederation hardly know each other yet, and consequently do not thoroughly understand each other. Not until there is a willingness to be tolerant, to approach the solution of our problems in a spirit of honourable compromise and to deal with them in the only way in which they can be dealt with adequately, properly and permanently, should

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the power to amend the Constitution be granted; for once it is granted there will be no limit to the exercise of that power.

I must add that in principle I have no objection to the amendment of the Constitution. To my mind it is merely a matter of time and opportunity. Canada is progressing sanely and satisfactorily. We have recently been making tremendous progress. We have taken means to add to the development of the country by putting to fruitful use the great natural resources which God Almighty has given us. I think we should not be too much concerned with purely academic powers, but should be content to proceed with our existing powers, which as I see it, are quite ample to permit of the completion of the development that we have undertaken with so much success, particularly within recent years.

Before I sit down may I express my approval—not in a partisan way—of the action of the Government in the larger spheres of administration, and of the saneness with which they are proceeding? The Government of to-day is a stable Government. It has been something very different for a long time past. The Government was chosen by the people. It took the reins of office when the country was in turmoil, and when, to my mind, we were in dire need of stable government, whether Liberal or Conservative. If I may be permitted to do so, with the greatest humility I would ask the Senate to co-operate heartily and cordially in all the measures of the Government to which they can give their support. I think it would add to the dignity and reputation of the Senate to pursue such a course.

With regard to the dignity and reputation of the Senate, I am one of those who would like to see a little more publicity given to our deliberations. If you read the local newspapers—and I think they are probably the only ones that pay any attention to us—you will see that no matter how important the subject, the deliberations of the Senate are dismissed with about ten or fifteen lines at the utmost. I think that we suffer throughout Canada because our deliberations and actions are not made known. I have nothing to suggest, but I think the members of this Chamber ought to take the subject in hand and endeavour to arrive at some means of making the work of this House, which is second to none in the parliamentary government of Canada, better known and better appreciated.

Hon. G. D. ROBERTSON: I understand that there is an honourable member on the