

give up easily, continued to press for the adoption of the word "Kingdom" right up until the final draft of the British North America Act. The earlier drafts of January and February, 1867, produced at the London Conference, do indeed bear witness to his tenacity on this point. There is I understand a draft of the British North America Act in the handwriting of Sir John A. Macdonald which, from internal evidence, appears to be earlier than any of the drafts actually considered at the conference. In this draft, in what I believe is his handwriting, the word "Kingdom" is used throughout, and scribbled on the margin of it are the following alternatives--in case there had to be a choice from many: "Province, dependency, colony, dominion, vice-royalty and kingdom." Obviously Sir John had been turning these over in his mind and had concluded that "Kingdom" was the word--and he used it throughout the draft--that would be the most fitting appellation for the new state which he and his colleagues were striving to establish in British North America.

In the meantime the law officers of the Crown, apparently unaware of the views of Sir John himself, had been at work on their draft of the bill, and on January 23, 1867, they placed that draft before the Conference. It provided that the provinces of British North America should be united, and I quote from it now words familiar to all of us: "into one Colony with such name as Her Majesty thinks fit." Well, the word "colony" in that draft from the law officers of the crown found no favour with the delegates of British North America and they substituted the word "dominion" for it. Thus the draft of February 2, 1867, provided, and I quote from it: "The said Provinces... shall form and be one united Dominion under the name of the Kingdom of Canada." It is interesting to note, Mr. Chairman, that in this draft the word "dominion" was not introduced as an alternative to "kingdom". The name of the proposed dominion was to be the Kingdom of Canada, and until February 9, 1867, this name was retained in the various drafts; but on that later date Sir John gave up the fight with the home authorities and agreed with the proposal that the provinces should "form and be one Dominion under the name of Canada".

It is clear from this record that Sir John A. Macdonald's acceptance of the description "dominion" was by no means intended to exclude the eventual recognition that Canada was to be styled a "kingdom," even though at the time it was considered inappropriate to include this word in the name of the new country--our country. ...

The idea of designating Canada as a kingdom did not die with Sir John. It is possibly not quite so well known to students of history that when in 1901 a change in the Royal style and titles was being contemplated the designation was given careful consideration again.

The exchange of telegrams between the Secretary of State for the Colonies of that day, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, and the colonial governors who were instructed to consult their ministers on the question of the new Royal style and titles reveals that the Colonial Secretary--and I quote from his dispatch of the day, was: "very desirous that the separate and greatly increased importance of the Colonies should be recognized if possible."