

of the Barrier Act. This means that if a majority of the Presbyteries do not reverse the action of this Assembly, the Assembly of 1911 can legislate the Presbyterian Church out of existence, without even consulting the people. This may be due to lack of consideration, rather than to deliberate intention, but it is very serious.

Apart from the moral complexion of such action, it has a legal bearing of great importance. The best legal authorities in Canada hold that the use of the Barrier Act at this stage is unconstitutional. Those who persist in forcing forward the movement by such means are putting themselves in a position similar to that which almost wrecked the United Free Church of Scotland.

Scores of men at every Assembly have been unsuspectingly allowing themselves to be led forward by abstaining from voting or voting in favor of the committee's report on the ground that it was of little significance as the people would pass on it. The same thing is likely to happen in Presbyteries. But, judging by the past, such a course is dangerous in the extreme. If this matter is allowed to pass through Presbyteries unchecked, the question of union *per se* will never come to the people. What will come is this: The people will be told that six Assemblies have passed in favor of union (which is not strictly true), and that a certain number of Presbyteries have also passed favorably on the matter. They will then be asked, at least by implication, "Do you feel so strongly on this matter as to desire to reverse the action of the Courts of the Church?" The people will not really and independently face the question of union, but will be merely passing on the action of Church Courts.

Every man who does not believe in this organic union should make his opinion felt now in Presbytery. If he does not, he is misleading the Church and doing injustice to all concerned. And having made this protest, which reserves to us the right of taking such steps as may be necessary in the event of this organic union being pressed through under present proceedings, we respectfully remind Presbyteries that this organic union proposal, being sent down under the Barrier Act, must be expressly approved or rejected. Any Presbytery which rejects the proposal, may, thereafter, express its opinion in favor of some other course of action, if it feels so disposed.

The mandate seems to have gone forth from the Union Committee: "This union must and shall be brought about." It is for every man who does not believe in ecclesiastical tyranny to show that he is not ready to submit to such dictation from any man or group of men in any church.

We send out this statement under a profound sense of duty and pray that the Holy Spirit may guide us all in the present crisis,