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conditions. Should such prove to be the case, the possibility of any break in British connection would be lessened, rather than increased, for I believe that such amendment, sought under conditions as they now exist, only serves to arouse fresh debate on our relations within the Empire.

I had a further thought in my mind, and it was this. A safeguard, such as the one suggested of concurrence by the Provinces, would help to avoid, further abuses of amendments to the constitution such as were experienced as a result of the last amendment, whereby the Federal Government, without any concurrence by the Provinces, gained an extension of Parliament for a year, and then took advantage of the extension to enact the iniquitous War-time Elections Act, give further grants to Mackenzie and Mann, and impose conscription. As matters stand at present, there is no guarantee, other than a belief that such would not be the case, that a Parliament such as exists in England at the present time would not be ready to meet the wishes of our Parliament as expressed by the majority vote of its members in both Houses, notwithstanding that a minority might vigorously protest.

I should not favour any immediate step which would lead to the right to amend the constitution in any and every particular, without reference to the British Parliament. The possibility of such a course being agreeable to all the Provinces and the Federal Government is so remote as to be a negligible consideration. If, however, there are particulars upon which all may be agreed, I cannot but believe that, so far as concerns the satisfying of a distinct national sentiment which the War has helped to produce, the step might not be the means of avoiding the advocacy of a step more radical departure and one which, should it ever become a national issue, might come to have a serious aspect so far as British connection is concerned.