

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. MACLEAN (York). If the opportunity is presented to me to say a word for the province of Quebec, which is one of the best provinces we have in Canada—

Mr. DEVLIN. And one of the most loyal.

Mr. MACLEAN (York). One of the most loyal to its institutions. But, if the North America Act, which gives autonomy to these people, is to be destroyed in its most significant clause which gives us control of our tariff and we give that away to the people of the United States what next is to come? Thus I say to the people of Quebec that we have this great organic change proposed in this House and we have hardly a single Quebec member who enters a protest.

Mr. CLARK (Red Deer). If the old Tory party in England had had its way how much autonomy would the province of Quebec have had to-day?

Mr. MACLEAN (York). Thank God, I am not responsible for the old Tory party. Perhaps some hon. gentlemen on the other side are. Certainly the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Clark) is not; I will give him credit for being a progressive Liberal.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I would like to know why the hon. gentleman appeals to Quebec?

Mr. MACLEAN (York). I have given you my reasons. They have, within the British constitution, certain rights and privileges of their own and if our constitution is to be broken down—

Mr. TALBOT. If.

Mr. MACLEAN (York). Yes, and it is proposed here to-day to do that because it will mean that Canada will never again have a word to say in the making of her tariff. This is a great organic change the effect of which will be that we shall never have a word to say in the making of our tariff but that we shall have to go to Washington for instructions. Again, I say to the people of Quebec, pause now before this thing is done, let us take time to deliberate and then it must not be carried until the people of Canada have had a chance to register their voice on the question.

Mr. TALBOT. Why do you not publish a French edition of the 'World'?

Mr. MACLEAN (York). The hon. gentleman is too humorous; if he has no better argument than that, I will not take up my time by answering him. But, if we are to abandon the control of our tariff and give it to the United States, it should not be done without a mandate from the people.

Mr. MACLEAN.

There has been no mandate. The right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), may think he has a mandate. He knows what happened in 1891, when commercial union was repudiated, and he has no right to resurrect that at this time of day without consulting the people in a general election. Does he propose to do it? Will he go to the people on this question? I challenge him to-day to face the people of Canada on this question. There are certain things that a government can take in its own hands; it can lead the people into war and it may have to do it, but the government has no right to make a great organic policy change without consulting the people. Twice has the English government recently gone to the people and they say they have the mandate of the people, and Mr. Asquith, the Liberal leader in Great Britain, is pressing a great constitutional amendment this very day, on what he declares to be the mandate of the people. Is the right hon. the Prime Minister pressing this proposal before us to-day on the mandate of the people? I challenge him to stand up and say that he is. I say that he is abandoning the rights of the Canadian people. He is handing over our commercial integrity to our neighbours and in doing that, he is doing an unconstitutional thing. Again, I tell the people of Quebec that if our privilege in this parliament in regard to the tariff is to go, they will see what may happen to them later on. It is for the people of this country, (not to say perhaps that this nation shall be abandoned for ever), but it ought to be the duty of every man in this House to vote for a proposal that the consideration of this issue shall go further, only when the people shall be given an opportunity to speak in regard to it. To prove how deep my idea of Canadian nationality is, I repeat that we Canadians are on this continent to stay. I believe there is room on this great North American continent for at least two free and independent communities, based on English ideas of government, and that Canada is, must, and shall be one of these—by the grace of our neighbours if they choose to accord it; in spite of them if we must. That is the true idea of Canadian nationality. I have no fear that even while these proposals of the government tend in the direction of annexation or in the direction of commercial union, that the people of Canada, especially the young men and young women of this newer and greater Dominion, will ever have any other aim than the domination of the northern half of the continent by Canadians and by the maintenance of Canadian institutions in alliance with the old land. In a single night that great imperial idea of the mother land and the daughter states being associated, disappears, and the whole