

the time will come when the Governor General will disappear, and Canada will be an independent state under the Crown of Great Britain, and when the parliament of Canada will make the constitution of Canada, instead of that constitution being made on the other side of the water. I am not afraid to say that I hope to see the day when our own Supreme Court will be the court of final appeal. I am not afraid to say that I hope to see the day when Canada will make her own commercial treaties under the British Crown. Nor am I afraid to say that questions like this should claim some of the time of members of this House. Mention has been made here to-day of our imperial relations, and I believe a proposal will be brought before this House dealing with that subject. My ideas are changed somewhat from what I see in the press. The trend of public thought, as I read the signs of the times is in the direction of establishing a British empire made up of free and independent states under the Crown of England and working, not through a great imperial council, but through negotiations between the governments of these free and independent states. Therefore, it becomes more and more necessary that the governments chosen by these electoral colleges that, I am sorry to say, parliaments are becoming, should be men of the highest character, men of the most progressive ideas, men who fairly and truly represent the people. The great thing in parliamentary life is to concentrate and devote oneself to carrying into effect the views of the people who send us here, keeping their interests in view and giving effect to new and progressive ideas. In the thirty-eight years of confederation we have made great progress. But there is greater progress to be made, there are new ideas in the minds of our people to be carried into effect. There are visions to be realized; some of these visions are almost facts to-day. I trust that the new members, especially the younger men among them, will devote some of their time and their consideration to these newer questions, and especially the question of regulating the rights and powers of the corporations that have been chartered in this country.

Now, every citizen must be struck with the great progress that Canada has made. Every citizen of this country will be glad to know that our banks are becoming more and more successful, and that nearly all of them are looking forward to increasing their capital. Bank after bank is now increasing its capital, bank after bank is in a position to say that its reserve fund is almost equal to its paid-up stock. I believe that the great prosperity of the banks of the Dominion is attributable to their management. But if the banks are developing their capital and are increasing their profits, as I believe they are, has not the time come when this nation ought to share in the great prosperity attending the banks, and that the

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issue of national notes should be increased at least in the same proportion as the banks are prosperous and are increasing their capital? It is true that the government took power two years ago to increase the issue of national notes and take over the \$5 and \$10 bill circulation. To my mind I think the sentiment of Canada to-day is in favour of \$5 and \$10 notes being national notes, and of no others passing current in this country. That would help to uphold our currency and our banking system, it would help to uphold it in the United States where they throw discredit on our bank bills. I believe the time has come when the government, and I mean especially the Minister of Finance (Hon. Mr. Fielding), ought to form some advance policy in regard to that subject; and I trust when the Minister of Finance returns he will be able to give us some information in regard to it.

The right hon. gentleman to-day paid a great tribute to the new Governor General, and said that his ancestors had been identified with bringing about a change of government in England from a class government to a government by the people. The same thing ought to be done in this country to-day. We have not any longer a government of the people as we ought to have. We have to-day a government of corporations, aided and abetted by the Liberal party, and there is an outcry among the people against it; and the right hon. gentleman, with the great majority he has behind him, will be neglectful of his duty, will be recreant to Liberal principles, and recreant to these examples he has held up to us of what Liberals have done in the old country, if he does not try in some way to recover the rights of the people, to compel a respect for their rights on the part of this new oligarchy that has sprung up in this country, by which I mean a government by corporations. The people are crying out for their rights. To-day the press of Canada is not free. There was a time when there was hardly a corporation owned newspaper in this Canada; to-day corporations own most of the newspapers of this country, or at least control them and use them in order to paralyse public opinion in their own interest. Let any man who is a close observer look into the inner history of these newspapers and he will be more than surprised to learn that the press, supposed to be the guardians of the people, has passed under the control of great corporations. And there is this singular thing about it, that every one, or nearly every one, of those newspapers which have passed under the control of corporations are outspoken in their support of hon. gentlemen opposite. But whether the press is identified with one party or the other, this intimacy between the press and the corporations, this intimacy between the corporations and the public men of this country, is causing the people a considerable amount of alarm.