

The Statute of Westminster has altered our status. . . . What we want is a new constitution.

The new constitution must leave nobody with a grievance. A spirit of conciliation should predominate. For these reasons, the task must be entrusted to an independent body in which all the elements of the country will be represented. I want the assembly to sit in a city in the west. It would not be necessary for a delegate to be a member of parliament or of a provincial legislature. I would suggest that the assembly do not sit in Ottawa, in order that it may not have the appearance of being dominated or even influenced by the dominion power; and, as the western provinces are of such paramount importance in the country, I suggest the best city for the representatives to gather in would be in Winnipeg.

Whether our country should be changed from a dominion to a kingdom is also a subject which might be discussed. I would suggest that the country could be called "The Federated States of Canada." There have been many disputes about provincial rights since 1867 and it seems certain that when a new constitution is drawn up the distribution of federal and provincial powers will have to be modified.

I have presented what I consider is a reasoned and logical argument. It is a subject which cannot be discussed properly in the short period of forty minutes. I take this thing very seriously. I think the time is long past due when we the people of Canada should do something about this serious situation. I believe the statements I have made warrant a reply on the part of some one of the government, either the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), the Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent) or some other spokesman for the government. I think they also warrant a statement on the part of the provincial premiers of this country and I shall await their remarks and observe what attitude they take.

On motion of Mr. Homuth the debate was adjourned.

It being eight minutes after eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

## Tuesday, July 4, 1944

The house met at three o'clock.

### PRIVATE BILLS

#### FIRST READINGS—SENATE BILLS

Bill No. 157, for the relief of Everett Roy Clow.—Mr. Douglas.

Bill No. 158, for the relief of Elmore MacLean MacKay.—Mr. Douglas.

### GENERAL DE GAULLE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the house will

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be interested to learn that General de Gaulle has accepted the invitation of the government to visit Ottawa. It is expected that he will be here in about a week's time, for a brief stay immediately following his visit to the United States. In view of the great interest which will be aroused here by the presence of this distinguished French leader, arrangements will be made, with his consent, for General de Gaulle to appear publicly on parliament hill before the proceedings of parliament open on the day he happens to be here. Details of the arrangements will be announced as soon as possible.

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): May I thank the Prime Minister for informing the house as to the arrangements made for General de Gaulle's visit. As the Prime Minister will recall, I made inquiry on an earlier occasion and my right hon. friend was good enough to say that he would give the information as soon as possible.

### INDEPENDENCE DAY

#### FELICITATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, as this is Independence day in the United States, will the Prime Minister inform the house whether the government has made any move toward sending our felicitations and best wishes to the United States government.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Yes. As my hon. friend is aware, I received from the President a most cordial communication on Dominion day, and I have sent to him to-day on behalf of the Canadian people a communication which, I hope, may prove to be equally felicitous.

### WHEAT

#### ISSUE OF CHEQUES FOR PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. DIEFENBAKER (Lake Centre): I should like to ask a question of the acting Minister of Trade and Commerce, with respect to the hold-up or delay in the issue of cheques for participation certificates in respect of the sale of wheat. Would he explain what the situation is, and when it is expected this job may be completed?

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Mines and Resources): I have not the information which would enable me at this time to answer the hon. member's question. I do know that