

A permanent reform of our nation's financial system will never be achieved by the methods which Messrs. Abbott and Ilsley have suggested.

And further on—you may think that I am trying to solve for you the riddle as to whether it is Mr. Drew or Mr. Duplessis speaking; that we shall see—the same gentleman added:

Moreover, Quebec has vital reasons to consider the respect of our constitution as of basic importance.

Now, who's words, do you think, I have been quoting? They are Mr. George Drew's and not Mr. Duplessis's. Turning now to the statement of the Quebec premier, I read as follows:

It is absolutely contrary to facts to say that government officials of the province of Quebec have been authorized to enter into negotiations with the federal government. None but the duly elected representatives of the people have that authority and I am sure that no official has even sought to exercise it.

I shall gladly participate to a plenary conference but I shall never be a party to secret parleys or to the trading of the rights, freedoms and privileges of our Canadian provinces, let alone those of the province of Quebec.

The premier of Quebec and the premier of Ontario are both using the same language.

Mr. PINARD: They are Siamese twins.

Mr. TREMBLAY: My coevals will well remember that in 1911 the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said: "Scratch the skin of a nationalist, and you'll find a Tory." We have here the spectacle of a group leader loudly disclaiming connection with the Tory party, which he even goes so far as to rebuke within the province of Quebec. Yet compare his statements with those of the Tory leader in the next province, and you'll find that they both talk the same language. I won't urge that you scratch the skin of the Union Nationale leader in order to find a Tory. You needn't even go to that trouble. Just listen to Mr. Duplessis, and then to Mr. Drew; they both talk the same language. They have the same epidermis, the same skin. They make the same sounds. They're twins, nay Siamese twins, as my hon. friend has just pointed out.

There was talk of autonomy back in 1911. It was then Monk and Hugh Graham who were plotting the destruction of our great fellow-countryman, Laurier. Now, in the year of grace 1947, it is the Drew-Duplessis combine, scheming the downfall of the best government this country has ever had.

Who are the ones, then that have already gone down in history as genuinely great autonomists? Let us look up the political annals of this country for the last half-century,

during which Canada has passed from the status of a mere colony to that of a truly autonomous nation and we shall discover the patriotic citizens whose passionate ardour and enlightened Canadianism secured for our country its status of free nation.

We have gone a long way since 1897 when Sir Wilfrid Laurier, French-Canadian prime minister of an English colony, had the pluck, or should we say the daring, to state, in Liverpool, before the Duke of Devonshire, during Queen Victoria's jubilee—and I quote:

In this united and confederated country which stretches from the Pacific to the Atlantic, the authority of the sovereign rests on the free and cordial allegiance of five million people who are still called colonials but who proclaim themselves a nation.

And the great Liberal leader borrowed the following quotation from Kipling:

Daughter am I in my mother's house, but mistress in my own.

Already Laurier proclaimed us a nation though in truth we were still a British colony. Constitutionally, we had and could have no accredited and official representatives in other countries; we could neither negotiate nor sign commercial agreements which, to be valid, required the seal of the official British representative; the inconveniences which this formality entailed for Canada can well be imagined; England's foreign policy, drafted by London exclusively on behalf of the British empire bound not only England but all her colonies. In 1914, the Tories still claimed that "When England is at war, Canada is at war."

Even after we had secured Dominion status, in 1918, as eminent a personality as Premier Lloyd George stated, in a still celebrated declaration:

The instrument of the foreign policy of the empire is the British Foreign Office. The machinery must remain here. It is impossible that it could be otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, what was impossible has become a fact. Not only does Canada have its own Department of External Affairs, headed by our eminent fellow-countryman, of whom we are very proud, who lays down and directs Canada's external policy, but we also have our ambassadors, consuls, Canadian diplomatic corps, testifying abroad that we have reached the status of a free and autonomous nation.

Obviously, the country was not transformed from "a modest colony into a powerful nation" in the twinkling of an eye, without effort or clash. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."