

Federal question that vote shall have its separate value. The old treaties gave them a right to an autonomy which has not only never been disputed, but which has become the model for equal rights given to other States, whose area, as they in turn develop in population, will probably be made as far as possible equal to that of Quebec.

The French Canadian race, therefore, occupies a very important place in the Confederation ; yet from their position they cannot demand too much, so that the danger of a separate Commonwealth is avoided. They are thoroughly loyal to Canada ; for that great Anglo-Saxonizing amalgamation mill, the United States, would soon efface their language, should their fortune be cast with the States. Their loyalty to the Empire is born both of inclination and of the knowledge that Canada could not stand alone, but would be annexed to the United States on the first pretext, were there not behind her the majestic form of a United Empire. Because no hand has ever sought to touch their rights, they are loyal to the framework of the Power which gives them these, and ensures them a place which makes them a moving force in larger politics. Their position is never likely to be menaced ; for, unlike the population of old France, their people increase in an astounding ratio. But they must in the future be content, as they are now content, with the privileges they possess. They cannot get their Province, or another carved afresh, to suit the French-speaking population. Suppose an improbable case—namely, that the English-speaking people obtained a majority in the west part of the Province. No Canadian would propose to re-adjust the Province so as to erect a French-speaking portion into a separate entity. Each Federal Government would desire to avoid having any single homogeneous State made inconveniently strong for the Central Government, or else any disallowance of legislation, however *ultra vires* it might be, could be resisted. *Divide et impera* must be the true Federal motto, as it was the motto of ancient governments of other forms.

We, therefore, see that Canadian provincial right means only the right to make laws on purely domestic matters ; such, namely, as are mainly comprised in educational and civil right legislation ; and any demands arising from ethnic differences have proved capable of treatment, because the case has been treated Provincially, the tempest being thus confined to the teapot. The trouble has not affected the country at large, but a Province only. It may be further remarked that the limits of the Provinces and the States into which America and Canada have been divided have been almost always accidental or artificial, and that the boundaries are often represented by a mere imaginary line of longitude or latitude. The abolition of the Seigniorial Tenure has been mentioned as having been the work, not of a Provincial Government, but of the Government of the United Provinces of Upper and of Lower Canada, previous to the great Confederation movement of 1867. As the Act affected rights of property sanctioned and recognized by Crown Treaties, it is probable that no Provincial Government would, even nowadays, have been allowed exclusively to