

from the French province of Quebec. Although we feel that too many cases are brought before the Privy Council and that the class of appeals should be restricted; although we also know that matters are so arranged that the assistance of an English counsel is almost necessary, with all the resulting retainers and refreshers, which sometimes do not retain but surely never refresh our poor clients, nevertheless I believe it is the general desire of my province that, especially in constitutional cases, the right of appeal should be maintained.

"The Canadian Confederation was a compromise. Half a century of marvellous progress and development shows the wisdom and foresight of the men who framed it. But when so many conflicts of a racial, religious or ethnical nature are liable to arise, have we not all a greater sense of security from the fact that the decisions to be rendered will come from the men who preside over the Privy Council, men remote from our local strifes and disputes, unprejudiced by their surroundings?

#### **Protection for Minorities.**

"To express my thought in a few words, I will venture to say that in a country such as ours, which is blessed with minorities, the Privy Council is the protection of those minorities. Solicitude for minorities is not unknown to British fair play and constitutional principles. Enjoying this blessing, if we want Canada to progress in peace, harmony and concord—and surely this is our common desire, as we feel that national unity and material development hinge on a true Canadian spirit—is it not necessary that some of these vexed questions that unfortunately have divided us in the past should be finally settled by men whose decisions will not be open to the charge of sectionalism or provincialism? To my mind there is nothing so destructive of the respect due to the law—and, after all, is not this respect the foundation of our civilization—as to see the members of a court, on a racial or religious question, divided apparently according to their own religious or racial feelings.