

Although its coming was looked forward to with more or less trepidation, the Francœur debate was in no sense sensational. The discussion was maintained on a high plane. The author of the motion that precipitated the debate declared that he did not wish for the separation of Quebec from Confederation, but merely for a "show-down", an opening up of the whole question, so that the air might be cleared once for all. Others spoke in the same vein. There was much of history, little of rancor. Incidentally, from an oratorical point of view, the debate would have been creditable to any Parliament.

From the broad Canadian view point the entire discussion would have been well worth while, in our opinion, had there been but the splendid speech of Sir Lomer Gouin, Prime Minister of the Province, and nothing more. Here is a quotation that sums up the attitude of Sir Lomer on "Quebec and Confederation".

"To make myself more clear I declare that if I had been a party to the negotiations of 1864, I would certainly have tried, had I had the authority to do so, to obtain for the French-Canadian minority in the sister provinces the same protection as was obtained for the English minority in the Province of Quebec. I would not have asked that as a concession, but as a measure of justice. And even if it had not been accorded me I would have voted in favor of the resolutions of 1864.

"At the time of the debate of 1865, I would have renewed my demand for this measure of prudence and justice. And if I had not succeeded, I would still have declared myself in favor of the system as it was adopted March 13, 1865. And even at this moment, Sir, in spite of the troubles that have arisen in the administration of our country since 1867, in spite of the trouble caused those people from Quebec who constitute the minority in the other provinces, if I had to choose between Confederation and the Act of 1791 or the Act of 1840-41, I would vote for Confederation still.

Whaver has approached the Prime-Minister of Quebec has felt his strong personality. There is a strange magne-