

John A. Macdonald reached London he said: "I want the name and title of 'Kingdom of Canada,'" and he was very near gaining his point. Memoirs that have appeared lately throw upon Lord Derby the responsibility of refusing that request, because at that time, in 1866, when the North had just won the war against the South, the United States were somewhat sensitive on the matter of European intervention on this continent, and somewhat nervous and impatient at the trend of opinion in Great Britain and Canada on the war of secession, and Lord Derby thought that that appellation, "Kingdom of Canada," would perhaps appear to be odious to our southern neighbour. Be that as it may, I believe that at that time we got the substance if we did not get the form. Sir John A. Macdonald wanted the title, "The Kingdom of Canada," with the King of Great Britain as our King, in order to establish the fact that we were no longer a dependency, but were an autonomous country with complete independence in the administration of our own affairs, under the same flag and the same crown. That was the end which Sir John had in view. Those were his principles; and we find them on the lips of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1908. I had occasion, at his death, to cite that excerpt from his speech delivered at the Tercentenary of the founding of Quebec by Champlain. In the presence of the present King of Great Britain and the Dominions, at a dinner given by the then Governor General, Lord Grey, and attended by representatives of all the Dominions who were present at that celebration, Sir Wilfrid Laurier thus spoke of our status:

As I advance in years I appreciate more the wisdom of that British constitution under which I was born and brought up, and under which I have grown old, which has given to the various portions of the Empire their separate free governments. It is our proud boast that Canada is the freest country in the world. It is our boast that in this country liberty of all kinds, civil and religious liberty, flourishes to the highest degree. To those who look only on the surface of things this may not be apparent. The fact that we are a colony does not alter the truth of this statement. The inferiority which may be implied in the word "colony" no longer exists. We acknowledge the authority of the British Crown, but no other authority. We are reaching the day when our Canadian Parliament will claim co-equal rights with the British Parliament, and when the only ties binding us together will be a same flag and a same Crown.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: What date is that?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That was in August, 1908, at the celebration of the Tercentenary of the founding of Quebec. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales came to

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Canada for that event. Sir Robert Borden claimed the same status at Versailles; he claimed the same status at London, and he made that very important step forward, the agreement with London and Washington for the sending by Canada of an official representative, a Minister Plenipotentiary. I am citing these three leaders, all Canadians and Canadian statesmen, who have been able to affirm that we were autonomous nations, sister-nations, but bound together by the same Crown and the same flag; and I find in the report of the Conference the sanction and acceptance of those very aspirations and declarations of the statesmen whom I have cited.

Of course, Canadians have done their share. The development of Canada is that of the whole nation. The right to affirm before the world that we were a nation to be considered, and entitled to enter the comity of nations, was established during those fateful years of 1914 to 1918 on the battlefields of Europe. But I accept, with my honourable friend, the statement that this official recognition is but the crystallization of principles which were in the British North America Act in 1867; powers which are to be used as we need them, and at the proper hour. The time has come when a nation of nine millions can ask to administer its affairs, and administer them in the name of one and the same King, at home and abroad.

I made that statement in explaining our situation when I had the honour of being made President of the League of Nations, because I knew that misunderstanding was rather outside the Empire than inside; and I remember that two years ago Mr. André Siegfried wrote a most interesting book entitled, "L'Angleterre d'Aujourd'hui"—"Great Britain of To-day," which has had the honour of translation and of very many editions in English since then, and in which he said, coming to the study of the relations of the Dominions with the Mother country, that he had to acknowledge the great evolution that had taken place, but wondered if outside countries would not be somewhat reluctant to grant us that equality of status while we had no direct connection with them. It is much to the credit of Sir Robert Borden to have established that connection by decreeing that there should be a Minister Plenipotentiary in Washington; and I am quite sure that in the natural evolution of things we shall have representatives also at other capitals, so that that contact will be thoroughly established. So far as my reading of history has enlightened me, there is no precedent for six