

the British North America Act and keeping every privilege and right granted through that Act to his province. Having served under those men, and having maintained that position, it is hard for me to come to the conclusion that the country needs now what we are asking the provinces to give. It is hard for me, knowing the province of Quebec as I do, to say that the province of Quebec at this stage of the development of Canada should put everything—its aspirations, its hopes, its ambition—in the background, look solely to the future of Canada and say, "We sacrifice what we think is the welfare of the province of Quebec to make a prosperous and united Canada."

I am not ready yet to say that. It is my belief that, but for war and the extension of wartime taxation into times of peace, the province of Quebec would have developed into the richest and largest province of the Dominion. The province of Quebec has been endowed by nature with wealth which it has not been possible for it yet adequately to develop, and now that the time has come when by legislation it can carry on what it had hoped to carry on, the central government says, "Stop, restrain your ambition for a while, and come and help to develop the provinces which the leader of the opposition has mentioned, and which may be in need."

Do not forget that half the water powers of this country lie in the province of Quebec. Do not forget that what thus far has been somewhat of a handicap in the development of the province—its north country, covered with snow and with forests—has become a source of great wealth. The waters which roll down from the north to the St. Lawrence are rolling in July and August; there is no dry season in that part of the province. And now, when the wealth of this country consists of "white power", electricity; when the industries of the world and of America in particular have to come to the province of Quebec if they want to get cheap power; now, when the coal resources are being exhausted and other sources of energy are becoming more and more limited, the province of Quebec is asked to relinquish certain fields of taxation, and to forgo certain revenues which could have been used to help the development of those natural resources. Quebec, because of its great potential wealth and the character of its people and its institutions is destined to become the richest and most populous of all the Canadian provinces. I do not like to pass a law which will make the province of Quebec, as far as its revenues are concerned, a subsidiary of another government.

I am not opposing the bill. I have not the vision to say whether this bill is absolutely necessary. I would have liked to see it held over. I would have preferred to have the people of Quebec given more time to go into this question, probably one of the most intricate and most difficult which has ever come before the parliament of Canada.

As the leader of the opposition has pointed out, confederation created much anxiety in Canada. The arguments and discussions which culminated in the act of confederation lasted several years. We found the solution. I believe that the present standing of Canada, the present situation of the dominion, should occasion in us more anxiety than our forefathers experienced when they brought about confederation. Let us make no mistake about it, Canada is now facing a divided path. Rightly or wrongly, certain provinces have been given money. They want more. Only two provinces can provide it. Others will contribute as much as they can, but the main burden will fall upon two provinces. Do you not think that under those circumstances it might be well to discuss the subject fully with these provinces, to bring them around a table to hear arguments for and against, and to proceed in a spirit of conciliation and comprehension, because we know that they cannot be forced into a deal if they believe it, even wrongly, to be unfair, unjust, or unnecessary.

I thought when this legislation was first proposed that it might directly affect in a financial way the province of Quebec. We were told that Quebec would have to accept it because it needed the 56 million dollars; but even in the short time since these proposals were made, events have proven that Quebec does not need this money. It is now raising more money than, in my belief, it is healthy for the province to have. If I had anything to say regarding the administration of the province of Quebec, if I were a partisan of the present Prime Minister, I would urge him not to raise so large a revenue, for the province does not need to spend 150 million dollars a year. It is not fair to ask a taxpayer, even a willing one, to contribute more than he should to the treasury. The people of this country have shown their patriotism. Quebec, which is sometimes criticized, came forward and did its duty. We called upon the people to pay money for a particular purpose, and from one end of Canada to the other they have paid it. We should now give them a respite. Do you not think it might be well to take a rest and say to these willing taxpayers, "You have done your duty. Keep some of your money now"? While I do not wish to criticize, I feel that I