

"These circumstances, together with the vastness of her area, the numbers of her free population, the character of the representative institutions and of the responsible Government which as citizens of the various provinces and of Canada her people have so long enjoyed, all point to the propriety of dealing with the question in hand in a manner very different from that which might be fitly adopted with reference to a single and comparatively small and young Colony.

"Besides the general spread of the principles of constitutional freedom, there has been, in reference to the Colonies, a recognised difference between their circumstances resulting in the application to those in a less advanced condition of a lesser measure of self-government, while others are said to be invested with 'the fullest freedom of political government;' and it may be fairly stated that there is no dependency of the British Crown which is entitled to so full an application of the principles of constitutional freedom as the Dominion of Canada."

*Principle of ministerial responsibility.*—The result was that the Commission and instructions were recast, the principles contended for by Mr. Blake were admitted and since then there has been no dispute with reference to ministerial responsibility in Canada, either with regard to assenting to Bills, the granting of pardons, or otherwise. The relations between the Lieutenant Governors of the Provinces and their ministers are governed by similar principles, and it may be said with confidence that, with regard to the great principle of ministerial responsibility, the working of Federal institutions in Canada has been satisfactory.

*Division of legislative authority.*—There is an important principle underlying the division of legislative authority between the Parliament of Canada and the Provincial Legislatures which should be explained and which has had much to do with the successful working of our Federation. The explanation will be made clearer and the reasons for this successful working will be made more apparent if I refer to the System of the Great Federation to our South.

In 1775 the thirteen colonies, which in 1776 declared their independence and threw off their allegiance to great Britain, sent delegates to a meeting or con-