

I believe that the great majority of Canadians, who are perfectly loyal to the King of Canada, are anxious to affirm the equality of this country within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

I agree that it is quite right to say that in this gradually evolving custom of using the simple name "Canada" we are amending the constitution. The question is: Are we a free and sovereign nation within the commonwealth? I say that undoubtedly Canada has marched on to the point of sovereignty, of independence as an equal member within the commonwealth, a member enjoying a full equality of status—although not of stature, as I know very well—with even the United Kingdom.

While listening to remarks of my honourable friend from Ponteix and also to those which were made yesterday by my honourable friend from Northumberland, I was hearing in my mind those words "Canada marches on." In that march some of our Canadians have been gloriously in the vanguard—men like Macdonald, Cartier, Laurier, Borden and King and, today Mr. St. Laurent. Others were in the rear-guard, and have always tried to prevent Canada from affirming her sovereignty and her independence. In 1867 Macdonald and Cartier wanted to adopt the expression "Kingdom of Canada", which would have been an excellent expression—

**Hon. Mr. Marcotte:** That is what it should be today.

**Hon. Mr. Gouin:**—exceedingly dear to the hearts of all French speaking Canadians. Whether we say *vive le roi* or God save the King, we mean exactly the same thing—and, I would add, our loyalty is surely above suspicion.

Concerning the expression "Kingdom of Canada", Downing Street in 1867 said that Washington would not like to have a monarchy for a neighbour. So in section 3 of the British North America Act, as just quoted by my dear friend from Ponteix (Hon. Mr. Marcotte)—and he is perfectly entitled to his own opinion—we read that the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick shall form and be one dominion under the name of Canada. We are told that the word "dominion" was taken from the Bible, but I am convinced that I have seen it in British statutes prior to 1867. For instance, if I am not in error, the colony of Virginia was called the Old Dominion. Rightly or wrongly, I am convinced that the word "dominion" originally meant possession. In Latin, even today, the word "condominium" is a territory over

which two powers—I may say foreign powers—exercise their joint authority. In French the word "dominion" was translated by "puissance".

**Hon. Mr. Marcotte:** But that is not a correct translation.

**Hon. Mr. Gouin:** That is the translation which was adopted at that time, and I am sure my honourable friend from Ponteix does not consider it as being accurate.

**Hon. Mr. Marcotte:** Will my honourable friend allow me to say a word? It is true that no French word has been correctly used as a definition for "dominion". "Dominion" is a French word and is used by the French Academy today. My friend knows Siegfried. Would he disagree with his translation? Would he disagree with his own brother-in-law who uses the word "dominion". I repeat, there is no translation for it.

**Hon. Mr. Gouin:** I am sorry, but my honourable friend and I are talking of two different things. I repeat emphatically that the word "puissance", as the translation for the dominion in our French texts is absolutely erroneous. The word "dominion" cannot possibly be translated. What I say is that in 1867, willingly or by inadvertence—we shall never know what exactly took place—the word "puissance" began to be used in Canada as the translation for "dominion". Surely nobody has ever pretended that the so-called Dominion in 1867 was really "puissance" or a power, as it means in French.

Great progress was made in 1867, and Canada at the time marched forward. We obtained autonomy for internal purposes; we became a self-governing colony, but subject to the Colonial Laws Validity Act, and so on. Nobody at that time pretended, or has to my knowledge since pretended, that Canada was in 1867 an international entity, which is the meaning of the French word "puissance". At that time the Dominion possessed no right whatever to make treaties in her own name, but was bound by the treaties made by Great Britain. Canada was represented abroad by British diplomats or consuls. But, honourable senators, with the help of God Canada steadily marched forward and, by a gradual process of evolution, without any formal amendment to her written constitution of 1867, began to obtain a voice in negotiations affecting her territorial and commercial interests. Somewhat slowly, but constantly, Canada marched on towards external autonomy.

In 1914 Canada entered the First World War as a dominion, within the original meaning of that word, namely, as a self-governing colony or possession. From 1914 to 1918 Canada marched on gloriously and heroically