

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, flourish 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 his 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.

To hear my honourable friends from the other side, and their leaders, it would seem that we had reached the stage at which we could claim that we were no longer a dependency, but a sister nation and that we exercised co-equal rights with the Imperial Parliament. I still believe that we are in the same condition as we were in 1867, for I find in the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons two resolutions moved by the Minister of Justice, addressed "To the King's Most Excellent Majesty" and asking him to consent—

To submit a measure to the Parliament of the United Kingdom, to amend the British North America Act, 1867, in the manner following, or to the following effect:

An Act to amend the British North America Act, 1867.

Be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows.

Then comes the amendment itself, which bears on the right of making inquiry as to the age or infirmity of judges sitting in the Superior Court.

The other measure has for its object a declaration that "any enactment of the Parliament of Canada otherwise within the legislative authority of the Parliament shall operate and be deemed to have operated extra-territorially according to its intention in the like manner and to the same effect as if enacted by the Parliament of the United Kingdom."

Honourable gentlemen, I see nothing altered in our status. We are still dependent upon the Imperial Parliament for the exercise of any power which we do not find in the British North America Act. It seems to me that the Cabinet, flushed with pride at Canada having attained national status by being represented in the League of Nations, might well have passed an Act declaring that the Parliament of Canada, hav-

ing co-equal rights with the British Parliament, "enacts as follows" and might have sent the Bill for approval to the other side, thus creating a precedent. Now is the time, if ever, for this Canadian Parliament and the Dominions at large to claim co-equal rights with the British Parliament, recognizing a common king, but no subservient or dependent situation. This has not been done, and I regret it, because it seems to me, with the feeling now prevalent in Great Britain that the Dominions must no longer occupy the position of mere colonies, but should be sister nations, we ought to have been able to obtain recognition of our equality and of our full nationhood.

Hon. RUFUS H. POPE: Honourable gentlemen of the Senate, I have listened attentively to the honourable gentleman who has just taken his seat. I think it unfortunate, as I have previously stated, that members of this honourable body do not refrain from participating in party caucuses. I observe that the Liberal party held a caucus the other day. Even if I had not read of that political caucus I should have learned of it by listening to the speeches of the Hon. Mackenzie King and others, the day before yesterday, and by listening to the speeches of the Liberal Senators in this House. The speeches were all of the same type. I say it would be much better for this House to stand absolutely, or to a great degree, independent of those party affiliations, especially if, as the honourable member for Delorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) states, the parties in the other House do not represent anything. In that case we do not want to be associated with them. In view of the dignity and independent position of the Senate of Canada, its members should not engage in political or party strife.

The honourable gentleman started off with the complaint that the French Canadians of the province from which we both come have not the representation they ought to have in the Cabinet. Then he read in French a very long statement, which my imperfect education, I am sorry to say, prevented me from closely following. A few moments later he informed us that the present Cabinet and the Union Government, or the so-called Unionist party, were not sufficiently attractive for the province of Quebec to think of associating with them. If the honourable gentleman truly represents his province, as he claims, and if such is still the sentiment of Quebec. I should like to know what practical scheme the honourable gentleman proposes in order that the French Canadians of Quebec