

that the rights of the Provinces to legislate within the scope of their authority should not be interfered with, and that every Provincial legislature, within the limits prescribed by the terms of the British North America Act is, and ought to be, supreme. I believe that this is a principle of greater importance to the welfare of this Dominion as a whole than even the sacredness of private rights or property ownership. I am willing to go thus far in the enunciation of what I am stating in this House, that a Provincial legislature, having, as is given to it by the terms of the British North America Act, full and absolute control over property and civil rights, in the Province might if it saw fit to do so, repeal Magna Charta itself."

"I advised my colleagues, and, through them, His Excellency, that this power of disallowance which was vested in us was one which, in the interest of the Commonwealth, it was better should not be exercised, even though the Act which was sought to be disallowed went the length of taking my farm from my possession, and handing it over without any compensation to my neighbour, or, it might be, to my political opponent."

From these remarks it is apparent that the speaker has taken his stand upon the broad doctrine, that, on grounds of public policy, it is undesirable that the Dominion authorities should disallow any Provincial statutes, except those which relate to matters outside of its jurisdiction. In one point of view it may be conceded that this doctrine is not open to question. There is nothing in the language of the B.N.A. Act to indicate that the power of disallowance is not as fully discretionary as the other executive powers which are defined by that Act. It is beyond dispute that the Federal Government may, if it pleases, decline to interfere with the action of the Provincial legislatures, not merely in a case where an inequitable statute is involved, but also in a case where it is requested to veto a statute on the ground that it has relation to a matter reserved for the Dominion Parliament. But in the form in which they are propounded