

The privy council's decision disposes of these arguments.

Since 1939, the historical evolution of Canada has progressed rapidly.

In September 1939, Canada entered the war, which enabled England to resist the invader after the defeat of France. Our hearts are still echoing with the pathetic words spoken by Churchill when he lauded our war effort. To the immortal glory of our pioneers is added that of Canadian servicemen of the first and second world wars.

At the end of the war, Canada, together with her cousins to the south, pulled Europe out of the squalor of its pitiful and horrible troubles. Then Canada joined the United Nations, annexed Newfoundland, obtained an amendment to her constitution in order to give the province of Quebec representation proportionate to her population. Lastly, on March 15, 1949, the Canadian government signed the North Atlantic treaty as a country enjoying the most absolute measure of sovereignty, under international law.

Such a rapid development in our evolution enables us to fully understand that part of the speech from the throne which reads as follows:

You will be asked to approve constitutional measures designed to facilitate the attainment of the constitutional limits of our nationhood.

On February 3, 1949, the right hon. the Prime Minister stated:

A nation which, like Canada, takes pride in its peacetime achievement must assume all the responsibilities of a sovereign state. A sovereign state cannot let the courts of another country have the final say in its litigation.

There is another vestige of our colonial past of which I should like Canada to be freed. You all know that the terms of confederation are written in the British North America Act. This act is the charter of Canadian union, the essential part of our constitution.

This evolution is not directed against any country. It is a natural condition with free people and I find this confirmed in the preamble to the North Atlantic pact:

They are determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law.

A nation's freedom must remain indivisible, if that nation is expected to play its full part in world affairs and promote permanent peace. I submit therefore that Canada, a sovereign country as far as the executive and legislature powers are concerned, should also be sovereign in the matter of judicial powers.

It is quite apparent that Canada must be empowered to amend its constitution, subject to the conditions outlined in the speech from the throne. I congratulate the government for taking the necessary steps. History shall

record them as landmarks of our development, a development achieved without a single drop of blood being shed. Wars and revolutions have always brought about changes in the constitution of countries, empires, kingdoms and ancient democracies. Most countries have won their liberty and independence through bloodshed; in Canada, however, liberty and independence are the fruit of wisdom and sagacity, of understanding and good will. Our country stands as a living example of the tolerance, magnanimity and happy outlook needed for the logical development of the universal order of things.

I note with great satisfaction that the government is anxious, in spite of all that has been said during the past few years, to co-operate with the provinces. An examination of the speech from the throne reveals that the government is desirous of avoiding anything that may bring about conflicts between the federal and provincial authorities. It would be useless to work for the maintenance of peace if we cannot, within our own boundaries, come to an understanding in the best interest of our people. The various components that make up our country must combine their efforts to ensure our economic expansion and a greater Canada. Those matters must remain above party politics. True patriotism dictates the policy that should prevail in our internal relations.

The time at my disposal allows only brief consideration of our external relations. We are faced with this dilemma: on the one hand, United Nations; on the other, Russia and the countries under her domination. Then, there is that great bulk of humanity that still does not know, because its political evolution is not sufficiently advanced, in what sphere of influence it will fall or with what group of powers it will freely associate itself. Now that renewed hope has come to Europe, the spectre of war crops up here and there to disrupt international entente. This naturally gives rise to unwholesome anxiety, to unbalanced trade relations. Such a state of things calls for caution. Since the government seems headed in the right direction, we will do our best to support its present policy. This is the price we must pay for our prosperity, our happiness. Caution is less costly than catastrophe.

Development of international trade, marketing of our farm products, appropriate measures for continued prosperity, housing assistance, educational grants, prevention of strikes, social security, health measures, these are the hallmarks of good administration. To increase social security, I would suggest to the government, if I may, that, in so far as our financial means allow, a pension plan be inaugurated