

Right Hon. Mr. Amery is trying at the present time to encroach upon the freedom of this country with respect to imperial matters; and the next moment he says that all we have to do is to go to England and the Imperial parliament will give us the power—I suppose immediately, and without any consideration at all—to amend our constitution and do it in accordance with the views entertained in this House, notwithstanding the fact that, after all, the British North America Act is a pact between the federal authorities and the provinces and that we could not amend the constitution of this Dominion along the lines he suggests unless we secured the consent, I will undertake to say, of every province in Canada. I doubt very much if we went to the Imperial parliament and asked for legislation giving Canada the right to amend its constitution the Imperial parliament would consider it for one moment if even the little province of Prince Edward Island raised an objection to the proposal. Because, as I have already said, confederation was the result of a pact between the federal authorities and the local legislatures and that pact could not be disturbed without the consent of all the interested parties. But my hon. friend goes further. With one stroke of the pen, or with a mere wave of the hand, he is going to abolish the right of appeal to the Privy Council.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): Oh no.

Mr. LOGAN: These are matters, I think, that ought to occupy our most serious consideration.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): And now is the time.

Mr. LOGAN: I submit it is not the proper time, when we are engaged in the consideration of a bill introduced to meet a difficulty which has been brought upon us by a judicial decision. Now, the facts are these: Under that decision the Industrial Disputes Act, otherwise known as the Lemieux Act has been found to be ultra vires of this parliament. At any moment there is a possibility that labour troubles may arise in this country and we have not the power, we are absolutely impotent, unless we pass this legislation, to deal with them. For instance down in Cape Breton a great labour struggle is taking place, twelve or fourteen thousand men are out of employment, women and children are suffering, and this parliament is impotent to help them or to bring about any meeting between the company and the miners in order to effect a settlement of the trouble.

Mr. BAXTER: Will this bill give that power?

Mr. LOGAN: Yes, I think that power is conferred under paragraph (f) of section 1, although I admit a question of law might be raised as to whether the intention is correctly expressed.

Mr. BAXTER: If the bill really gave such power I would be enthusiastic in its support, but what I fear is that no such power is conferred; the situation would be local and not national.

Mr. LOGAN: The paragraph in question reads:

Such works as, although wholly situate within the province, have been or may be declared by the parliament of Canada to be for the general advantage of Canada, or for the advantage of two or more of the provinces.

If we had such a law on the statute books to-day we could put through parliament a short act declaring the works of the British Empire Steel Corporation to be works for the general advantage of Canada. When that act had been passed we would then be able to appoint a conciliation board, for instance, to deal with the unfortunate situation which exists in Cape Breton. I submit to my hon. friend from York (Mr. Maclean)—and we all recognize his enthusiasm in the cause of readjusting our constitutional difficulties, and his Canadianism; he is almost one hundred per cent plus Canadian—that we are confronted now with a condition of impotency.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): Very well, let us remove the impotency.

Mr. LOGAN: If we can meet the situation by passing the present bill let us do so. Let us endeavour to do something to meet the situation which we find ourselves in at the present time.

Mr. HANSON: Just before the hon. member takes his seat I should like to ask him this question: Is it not perfectly open to the legislature of the province of Nova Scotia to pass appropriate legislation to meet the conditions such as he has described?

Mr. BAXTER: They have done so have they not? Have they not introduced the principle of compulsory arbitration down there?

Mr. HANSON: I am not sure; I am asking for information.

Mr. LOGAN: I fear the province has made a mistake in undertaking to force compulsory arbitration. You cannot in this age force men to do anything; you can conciliate them, you can talk and reason with them. Yes, legisla-