

or personal liberties. Let me say again this was a good start. If I may change the simile, at the very outset they sketched upon the canvas the Crown and Sceptre of Great Britain, which, since the great Revolution at least, have never been dishonoured.

But let us follow the copy as it is being drawn. "There shall be a General Legislature or Parliament for the Federative Provinces composed of a Legislative Council (called the Senate under the B. N. A. Act,) and a House of Commons." "A general legislature for the Federation Provinces. That means one Parliament for Canada. Let us pause upon these words. "One Parliament for Canada"; a glorious badge of a glorious union. What does one Parliament for Canada mean? Perhaps we realize that to-day better than the Conference did forty years ago. One Parliament for Canada means all Canada for the Canadians, the Sovereignty of half a Continent for Canadians, scope for Canadian statesmanship, for Canadian enterprise, for the aspirations of a Canadian democracy nourished developed and directed by the will of the Canadian people and by nobody else. Minor Parliaments for the Provinces may remain with a restricted jurisdiction, but all interests not otherwise assigned are to be vested in one Parliament with a jurisdiction as wide as Canada, and as substantial and as conclusive, so far as the interests of the Empire will permit, as the British Parliament itself. I wonder if the Conference ever thought that the time might come when some similar conference of their own would sit down somewhere and somewhen, as they were doing, with the map of the World before it, to draw up a Constitution with one Parliament for the whole British Empire.

Notice again the expression "A Parliament composed of two branches, A Legislative Council (or Senate) and the House of Commons." Only two estates in our Canadian realm instead of three estates as in England, viz., "Lords Spiritual, Temporal and the House of Commons". Here the model could not be followed. We have no Lords Spiritual for we have no State Church, all the better. So we have only one class of Senators and a House of Commons and so they give us Parliamentary Government, as they have it in England, without a struggle and perhaps I should not say without a struggle either, for we had our troubles and our feuds and incipient rebellions. Still the model is followed in having at least two Houses equally responsible to the people but under different conditions, equally bound to administer the Government of Canada according to the wishes of the people although not equally subject to the fluctuations of that opinion. A Legislative Council appointed for life by the Crown under the Great Seal of Canada, was their idea of a second chamber, representing proportionately the Provinces;—Notice it is an appointed Council, not a hereditary Council or House of Lords as in England, nor an elected Council as in the United States, but a