

derivation of our powers is the answer to the question: What powers have we?

If Canada wished to have biennial instead of annual Parliaments, she could not so enact. If she wanted to take her census every twelve years instead of ten, she would be powerless to make the change. If the Maritime Provinces wished to unite and become one province, they would be advised that it was impossible. If Canada desired to increase the membership of her Senate, or to decrease the qualifications for it, or even to change the quorum of the House of Commons, her power would be found to be inadequate. The right to make her own coins is forbidden by express statute. Over such a comparatively trifling matter as the procedure to be adopted in appropriating her own money, Canada has no authority. And such a necessary change of the capital city as that from Ottawa to Winnipeg (I speak as a Winnipegger) cannot be accomplished by unanimous vote of our Parliament, our legislatures, and all our people. Westminster can do these things for us. We cannot do them for ourselves. Self-government as to such and many other matters simply does not exist.

Observe some of the points that have actually arisen. Four years after Federation, doubts were entertained as to the power of Canada to establish new provinces in the North-West Territories, and to provide for their representation in Parliament. Westminster was appealed to, and an Act was passed there supplementary of our constitution.

In 1869, doubts arose as to the power of Canada to appoint a deputy to the Speaker of the Senate, and an imperial statute was enacted to declare that it might be done.

In 1873, Canada passed a statute providing for the examination of witnesses upon oath by committees of the Senate and House of Commons; but it appeared that Canada had