

*Supreme Court Act*

reported. My officials informed me this morning that the committee is still considering the facts.

**Mr. Smith (Calgary West):** Has it been found that there was an explosion before the crash?

**Mr. Chevrier:** The preliminary report so indicates.

**IMMIGRATION****ADMISSION OF GERMAN NATIONALS TO CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. Ross Thatcher (Moose Jaw):** I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Mines and Resources. Has the government given consideration to relaxing the immigration laws in order to let into this country German nationals who have relatives in Canada?

**Hon. Colin Gibson (Minister of Mines and Resources):** I did not receive notice of his question from the hon. member, but I shall be glad to look into the matter and make a statement later.

**SUPREME COURT ACT****VARIOUS AMENDMENTS—ABOLITION OF APPEALS TO PRIVY COUNCIL**

The house resumed, from Tuesday, September 20, consideration of the motion of Mr. Garson for the second reading of Bill No. 2, to amend the Supreme Court Act.

**Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to the bill now before the house, one must consider not only the broad principles involved but also the extent to which the bill meets or falls short of the requirements of the subject under consideration.

With the statements made by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) as to Canada's sovereignty, there will be little or no disagreement. Our full national stature was recognized without any reservation when Canada signed the treaty of Versailles in June, 1919. If there had been any doubt before, it was removed by the signature of Canada to that document, as a full and sovereign nation, and also by the statements which accompanied that act. Since then, of course, there have been a number of events which have emphasized the constitutional stature of Canada as a nation, and every Canadian shares a feeling of pride in the place which this country occupies in that respect. Every Canadian shares the pride that is felt in the great achievements of a nation of 13,500,000 people, which today occupies a position in the world out of all

proportion to its population. About these things there can be no disagreement.

Because of the recent union of Newfoundland, Canada comprises the whole northern half of this great continent. Whatever other changes there may be at any time in Canada's external associations, there would appear to be no doubt that, as one of the hon. members from Newfoundland put it yesterday, Canada's territorial ambitions on the North American continent have been realized. We now occupy that great area, from sea to sea, which was envisaged as an entity by those who prior to 1867 met, first at Charlottetown and later at Quebec, to join in drafting what amounted to a basic constitution under which this federation has grown great and strong throughout the years, upon the very principle of partnership and division of responsibility which was set out in that constitution.

We are all conscious of the part that the constitution of Canada played throughout the years in the achievement of national unity, national growth and national understanding. We are not only proud of Canada's historic past in the sense of the achievements that can be measured in statistical terms; we are proud of it when it is measured in terms of increasing understanding among people who, of different races and different backgrounds, live in widely separated parts of this great land.

Geographical conditions, and the association of two great races, made it inevitable that Canada would adopt a federal constitution. In considering any aspect of this subject we must remember that there never could have been one united Canada as we know it today had there not been full acceptance of the principles incorporated in our federal constitution and set forth in simple terms in the British North America Act, 1867. For that reason it is extremely important that in looking to the immense possibilities of development of this country in the years ahead we should at no time forget that the very strength of this nation has rested upon the respect for that basic constitution which means so much to the people of every part of Canada.

There are some who, overpowered by the dramatic events of the past few years, are inclined to say: "Well, what does the constitution matter anyway? What difference does it make where the division of authority rests? What difference does it make who has the responsibility of particular acts of government or administration? Today we have had emphasized in this chamber the significance of dramatic changes throughout the world, of a kind which make people believe that every-