

the companies will not accept such representation except under actual coercion by Parliament. It is clear that in Great Britain as in the United States experiments in public control have not produced any great body of opinion favourable to government interference in business or in transportation. Nor can it be established that the railways of either country gave as efficient service during the war under public control as did those of Canada under private management. This is not submitted as evidence that the Canadian National Railways will not be economically and efficiently managed. Mr. Hanna and his associates are showing a resolute determination to keep the system "out of politics". They inherited a grave situation and the whole disposition of the public is to say nothing and do nothing that will make their task more difficult. It must be remembered also that the action of the Government in Canada arose out of conditions which did not exist in the United States or in Great Britain.

IV

Sir George Foster and Mr. Doherty have been engaged in important negotiations with Imperial ministers in London. It is desired that the British North America Act shall be so amended as to give Dominion legislation the same force of extraterritoriality as now inheres in measures passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The Canadian Government does not ask power to enact legislation which shall have force outside the boundaries of the Dominion but only that Canadians offending against Canadian statutes while they are outside the country may be punished on their return. The amendment is required chiefly in order to assert authority over seamen and airmen. Canada is now unable to impose penalties on airmen disregarding Canadian regulations while not actually flying over Canadian territory. A resolution in favour of such amendment of the constitution was adopted at the last session of Parliament but points have arisen which require explanation and discussion with the Imperial authorities.

It is not understood that the wider proposal, endorsed by Mr. Doherty, and by Mr. Mackenzie King, to vest in the Canadian Parliament power to amend the Canadian constitution without reference to the Imperial Parliament will now be considered. Indeed Parliament has not seriously discussed or formally sanctioned this proposal, although in the press it has been freely debated and perhaps generally approved in the English Provinces. In Quebec, however, opinion is far less favourable although Mr. Doherty and Mr. King agree that constitutional changes suggested by the Federal Parliament would require ratification by all the Provincial Legislatures. There is a disposition in Quebec to regard the Imperial Parliament and the Imperial Privy Council as the safeguards of the rights and privileges of the French minority guaranteed at Confederation, and to examine very closely any proposal which might seem to weaken these guarantees or in any way disturb the federal compact of union. But these considerations do not arise in the immediate negotiations with Imperial ministers.

In recent years the Imperial Government and the Governments of the Dominions have sought to establish uniformity in the conditions of naturalization throughout the Empire. But it is found that amendments are still required. The position of a Canadian woman, married to an alien and therefore becoming the subject of an alien State, needs to be more clearly defined. There is legislation enabling such a woman to resume her British nationality under special circumstances, but cases arise in which the existing regulations are defective. It may be, too, that war experiences have dis-