

been seldom exercised. To prevent the provincial legislatures from going beyond their jurisdiction, it was felt that the power must rest somewhere, and as it might be inconvenient to have the provincial legislation going to England, it was decided best to have it made subject to the Federal veto. The proposal, however, met with many objections; and fears were entertained that the power would be greatly abused. Let us see what transpired:

Hon. Mr. Sanborn—"It was a wise power and commended itself to all. It was, however, not an ordinary power to be commonly resorted to, but an extreme power and one almost revolutionary. * * * And it would not be frequently exercised without destroying the very foundations of society and occasioning evils of the greatest magnitude."

Mr. Sanborn's fears are in danger of being realized.

Sir Hector Langevin—"We are not to suppose that the intention of the veto power is that every bill passed in the local legislatures will be reserved for the sanction of the Central Government. That reservation will take place only in respect of such measures as are now reserved for Her Majesty's sanction. *

* * All local interests will be submitted and left to the decision of the local legislatures."

Here we have full vindication of the contention that we have just been making, viz: That the intention of the framers of Confederation was that this veto power should only be used as the Imperial veto had theretofore been used, viz: seldom or never. Nor was it the intention that all provincial legislation should be subject to Federal supervision.

Hon. Alexander Mackenzie—"I think it is quite fair and safe to assert that there is not the slightest danger that the Federal Parliament will perpetuate any injustice on the local legislatures, because it would cause such a reaction as to compass the destruction of the power thus unjustly exercised."

Mr. Mackenzie's argument has considerable force when applied to the larger provinces, but it provides little remedy for provinces with small representation. These are left at the mercy of the Federal power.