

*National Anthem*

Men of forty or fifty different races jostled each other in the streets of London, the metropolis. Kipling wrote then that great hymn, *The Recessional*. We are in recessional days now so far as the British empire is concerned. India has gone. Burma has gone. They have all passed away and the days of *The Recessional* are upon this country at the present moment. I am sorry that those from our sister provinces cannot see these things in the same way as I do.

At the diamond jubilee Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who was first in the procession because we were the senior dominion, said: If you want our support, invite us to your councils. This they did. We have always been at those councils. The great Liberal Prime Minister also stated that when Britain is at war, Canada is at war. I am not one of those who are turncoats. I have never been a turncoat. I believe in speaking the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The people back in the constituencies cannot get the truth or the full truth, but only the official truth from some of the newspapers, the radio or the Canadian press. They do not give the people back home the truth. They give them only as much of the truth as they want them to know, forgetting that there are large numbers of people back in the constituencies who know as much as or more than some of the agencies I have named. I am not complaining about the matter at all. I just refer to that point in order to see how some of them change their policy or their tune accordingly.

As to this motion, I will just say that I greatly regret this purely secondary matter has been brought up at the present time, because there are many other matters which are far more important than it is. Last year we had a motion, proposed by the mover of this motion, that there should be a change from the Dominion Day Act to Canada Act. Then there was a resolution to change the flag. We had a committee on the flag. So many flags were submitted, I never saw the like of it in my life. There were all kinds. They were green, pink, grey—all the colours of the rainbow. A committee investigated the flag situation. What did they do? Their report was presented to the house and it was forgotten in the twinkling of an eye.

Another resolution proposed to change Dominion day to Canada day, and still another to abolish appeals to the privy council. The Minister of Justice is not here to hear the discussion; but many eminent men who have occupied that great office, such as Sir Charles Fitzpatrick and Sir Allen Aylesworth and many others, have been opposed to any change with regard to appeals to the privy council; because, if you believe

[Mr. Church.]

them, it is the one court in which a litigant can get justice. Another motion proposed here is to change the office of governor general—to have a Canadian governor general. We have had two of the greatest soldiers in the history of the world, Montgomery and Lord Alexander, the present governor general. They are men who have never been excelled. It is about time we named a mountain after the two of them, commemorating accordingly those who have fought for the country. They are also great statesmen and front-rank diplomatists as well.

There are several other matters which I might mention but I will not take up the time of the house to do so. I will just say this. Since coming into the house I have supported certain principles because I believed it was far better for us to tell the people the truth. You will notice that there is an exit now of large numbers of those people with the halos up there; gentlemen in what one of them called the hayloft, in a jocular way. Hardly any of them are here to hear the discussions after the orders of the day are called.

I want to refer just for a moment to the substance of the motion; which reads as follows:

That, in the opinion of this house, the anthem "O Canada", in both the English and the French versions, should be the national anthem of this country.

I want to point out to the house right now that the anthem "God Save the King" is a prayer. It is both a prayer and an anthem. It is quoted at the coronation. It is a prayer for the safety of His Majesty. Before the war started, Their Majesties visited Canada. Did they ever get a better reception anywhere than they got in Canada? I do not think so. In the province of Quebec, which they visited, they were accorded a glorious reception, as they were in all the provinces. So much was that so that the present queen, when she returned to England, said that it was like a second coronation to have had the glorious reception that the people gave them in every part of Canada. In no part of Canada was a better reception given to Their Majesties than at Riviere du Loup and many other places at which they stopped in the province of Quebec. That just shows how well thought of Their Majesties are in this country.

As I say, "God Save the King" is founded on the bible, I Samuel, chapter 10, verse 24. After all, we are a Christian country, or we are supposed to be. We have many Christian churches and they are working in the utmost harmony. We saw that fact exemplified in the Indian and Eskimo affairs committee. The heads of these great Christian churches,