

others wounded, or the parents of those who have died, are in a mood to rejoice over the fact that fifty years ago this union was consummated? It does seem to me like blending a wedding with a funeral. I think that decidedly the better plan would be to wait until the war is over, and then we can have a great big celebration in which the whole country can join.

Hon. Mr. POPE: The committee is created for a purpose, and it will be for the committee, I presume, to decide upon the time and the manner of celebration.

Hon. Mr. POWER: No; because when you appoint a committee to do a thing they have no choice as to whether it shall be done or not.

Hon. Mr. POPE: Will they not have an opportunity of considering and reporting? The only thing that I rise to say is this: if we are going to have this celebration there is only one place to hold it in—the province of Quebec, even if you only go to Hull. There is no place where you can have a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary that will be worthy of the fathers of Confederation except the province of Quebec.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I did not gather from the remarks of my hon. friend (Hon. Sir James Lougheed) whether or not it is the intention that this committee shall sit during the parliamentary recess.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I really cannot say to my hon. friend whether the Government is absolutely committed to having a celebration or not. It was intimated in His Excellency's Speech, and it is a matter, it seems to me, for the consideration not only of the Government but also of the committees of both Houses which have been or will be selected for that purpose.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I think the suggestion made by the hon. Senator from Halifax (Hon. Mr. Power) is one that ought to receive consideration at the hands of the committee. Celebrations of great national events have been postponed on many occasions. The Chicago exposition was postponed for one or two years. This war cannot last for ever; it must come to an end this year or next year. When the war is over and peace is proclaimed to the world, the celebration of the birth of Canada fifty years ago and the celebration of peace and victory can be combined. Of course, I am in favour of celebrating the anniversary, but it is a question of the proper time.

Why not postpone the celebration until peace is obtained and victory assured? I quite agree with my hon. friend from Compton (Hon. Mr. Pope) that the province of Quebec is the proper place in which to have the celebration of this anniversary. It is practically the centre of this Confederation.

Hon. Mr. SPROULE: It seems to me that if we have a celebration at all it ought to be at the capital of the country.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL: Certainly.

Hon. Mr. SPROULE: I think that is the only appropriate place where it could be held. The honourable senator who has just taken his seat has suggested that we postpone it till some time in the future, when some anticipated event may have been realized, and when we could combine the two celebrations. That savours a good deal of the suggestion made to the boy to postpone the celebration of his birthday until next year. The anniversary comes at a given time, and if the celebration is postponed it is not the celebration of the fiftieth year after Confederation was consummated. With reference to the opinion that we should have no celebration at all, it does not seem to me that there is anything inappropriate in having a reasonable celebration. It can without any doubt be of such a nature that it is not bubbling over with exuberance, or anything unseemly, or anything unkind towards other countries. It can be kept in consonance with the conditions of our country and the conditions of the world; it need do no injustice to any; and yet it can be made a fair representation of our feeling for a great event in our own country's history. It does not seem to me at all inappropriate that we should have such a celebration at the present time.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: I have no objection to acting on the committee, but I must say that I am entirely in sympathy with the views expressed by the honourable member from Halifax (Hon. Mr. Power). I think our business at the present time is to prosecute this war, and I do not think that we can very well have a celebration such as we should have in commemoration of the birth of Canada in the present state of feeling in this country.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: It would cost too much money.