

he still thinks he can win." So Mr. Bennett left the country; and after he did all that playing the game and losing they made him a lord. I don't know why they did that. Well, they cannot win, yet somehow or other they refuse to change the rules. All we are saying to these hon. gentlemen, these fine gentlemen, these keen business minds, is: Change the rules and perhaps we will win. But they reply, "Oh, no; we cannot very well do that."

Now another gentleman has appeared on the scene. His name also begins with B but it is not Bennett; it is Bracken this time, and he says to the people: If only you will let me play the game, of course you will have to give me some chips too but I think I shall be able to win; you see, I have had experience for twenty years at this game—of course it was not in quite such a large field, and the stakes were not quite as high, but I have had that experience. But we say to him: What we want to know is, did you ever win?

Mr. MACKENZIE: Has my hon. friend ever played poker?

Mr. HANSELL: I played only one game of poker in my life—and I won. The strange thing about it is that I did not know the rules. Another fact, which is not so strange, is that I had sense enough to quit after playing the one game. That is one thing which hon. gentlemen who are playing Canada's poker game have not sense enough to do. They do not change the rules, and they will not quit.

Anyway, this other man, whose name begins with a "B", came along and said, "I know what you want. It is true that I left some I.O.U.'s to be paid; but if I get into the larger field and play the game on a bigger scale I might be able to win." But somehow or another the people thought another gentleman would be able to do it better, with the result that the Prime Minister was returned to office again—still playing the same game. He is still asking for more chips, and still piling up the I.O.U.'s.

The Prime Minister is going to retire soon to write his memoirs. I should hope the title of the book would be "Memoirs of the Great Canadian Poker Game". What we are saying over and over again is, "Change the rules; change the rules." We have been piling up these I.O.U.'s, but we have never yet won a hand. Yet they will not change the rules, and to-day Canada has sunk to a position where she is in debt to the tune of over \$13 billion, net debt.

How on earth are we going to get out, under the same rules which continue to put us into debt, and which have continually failed? What stands behind Canada's bonded indebtedness? What stands behind a Canadian bond? I declare the only thing that stands behind a Dominion government bond is the ability of the people of Canada to pay taxes. I hear no complaints with that statement. Often I hear it glibly said, oh, well, Canada is wealthy; look at our natural resources. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that Canada's natural resources do not stand behind a dominion government bond. That is one place where the provinces have a little more collateral than has the dominion government. The only thing that stands behind a dominion government bond is the ability of the people of Canada to pay taxes. How on earth are they ever going to be able to pay enough taxes to pay off \$13 billion in I.O.U.'s which leader after leader after leader in this country has been signing?

In his budget speech the Minister of Finance referred to the dominion-provincial conference. I shall not say much about it, except to throw a little more light on it, or perhaps I should say, a somewhat different light. Throughout Canada, editorially and in every other way, out went the propaganda that the dominion-provincial conference had failed. I wonder if it did. It is true that it failed to meet the suggestions of the federal Minister of Finance; but did it actually fail?

There is one place it did not fail: it proved to the country that the provincial governments had certain constitutional rights, and that when it came to a consideration of those rights the dominion government could not move without the say-so from the provinces. In my view that is an important point.

There is a move to divest the provinces of provincial rights. That is how Canada lies in extreme danger. In his budget speech the minister says, in effect, "Here is the way in which I can get the provinces to submit to my suggestion. I shall bring in a budget in which I shall stipulate certain things. I will say to the provinces, 'Here, you, sign on the dotted line. If you sign on the dotted line there will be so much coming to you; if you do not, you will have to suffer the consequences.'"

That is where the dominion government has the power. It is not now concerned with constitutional powers; it has the financial power. I believe it was Baron Rothschild who once said, "Permit me to issue the money of a nation, and I care not who makes its