

first of all Canadians, because they believe that the first thing to do was to develop this country in the interest of the Empire itself, that the greater its prosperity, is the greater the possibility of achieving our destiny, because above all they demanded that the people be consulted before conscription was accepted. Apparently these are the reasons for this fight against us, but are there deeper and more real reasons.

CONFEDERATION, A COMPROMISE. . . .

Two races of superior endowment divide this country between them, the french race and the english race. For more than a hundred and fifty years they have lived and developed beside each other. There has been, at least, at certain moments, collaboration to bring about an understanding between them for the purpose of working out a common ideal. Each one, directed by its leaders, achieved appreciable success that it would be useless to deny. With different mentalities, taking into account human nature, their instincts and the law governing them, in spite of enmity, jealousy, passion and prejudice, we were able to live to a certain point in comparative peace. But it must be admitted it never went very deep. The difference of character remained. Indeed it could not be otherwise, our manner of thinking and of feeling is not the same as that of our compatriots of different origin. Our language, our faith, our ancestral traditions inspire us with means of action different and sometimes conflicting, although tending to the same end. From these facts arise conflicts and friction.

Confederation is a compromise agreed upon in order to make these things disappear fifty years ago. In the intention of its authors, it was to assure respect of the rights, institutions, language and faith of minorities. The provinces were to preserve their autonomy and each, in the ardor of a common emulation seething to become the first factor in the general progress, was to assure the prosperity of all. That is what Cartier thought when he said : "There is no danger that an attempt will ever be made to deprive a minority of its rights. Under the system of federal government which leaves to the central power control of great questions of general interest which have nothing to do with differences of race, the rights of race, or religion, can never be