

*"King of Canada"*

great country. Moreover, his statement is—and we are surprised to hear it from a former prime minister—a malicious allusion to a country which, with our brilliant and mighty cooperation, played a leading part in the last war.

Another so-called key man takes the liberty to utter untimely remarks and express his fear, proving at the same time beyond all doubt that our constitutional evolution is our strength and is known the world over. Speaking before the Royal Empire Society, H. V. Hodson said:

(Text):

As a country, Canada feels that if she is not 100 per cent Canada, she is, she feels, merely an appendage of the United States.

(Translation):

And he adds:

(Text):

It is all evidence that Prime Minister Macenzie King was the principal accessory when the dominion government or at least some of them acted so that the imperial conference was quietly smothered in its bed a year ago.

(Translation):

He continues as follows:

(Text):

The dominions have only begun to assert the privileges of national status which they have acquired in the last generation.

(Translation):

This clearly shows his presumptuousness, and the idea he has of his own importance. He goes on:

(Text):

These privileges included the right to be represented here, there and everywhere by their own diplomatic envoys; the privilege of singing out of tune and being an argumentative party to every international negotiation that concerns them; and the small boy's right to cock a snook at his elders.

(Translation):

The only thing lacking to complete the picture is that an ambassador should tell us what national flag we should have.

Whatever those gentlemen may think, Canada is growing, although she is still young. She has reached maturity with a population of 12 million in a country which could contain an empire; she is strong enough to claim the privilege of selecting newcomers. That Canada should belong to an association of free countries gives rise to no complaint on the part of anyone, except those who are too much affected by imperial preference. That is what we find in the book by Sumner Welles, "Time for Decision", which was published in London and New York in 1944.

[Mr. P. Gauthier.]

On page 176, he writes:

(Text):

I was impressed with the unhappy effects which the Ottawa agreements, providing for imperial tariff preferences, had had on the economy of all nations and particularly on that of the United States.

(Translation):

We see no great danger in this motion asking that in view of our slow constitutional evolution, the king actually reigning over the British empire be called King of Canada. It means only the bringing of our status to its logical conclusion. Eventually—one never can tell—it may be suggested that the crown, symbol of the constitutional King of Canada, be substituted to the union jack, emblem of another nation, on our national flag, itself subjected to the inevitable trend of events. These things cannot be avoided, Mr. Speaker. Time will follow its course. Those who wish to stem the course of events will fail in their attempt if they are not careful in aiding and guiding them. Doctor Ollivier, in the preface of his book "Le Canada, pays souverain", writes as follows, on page 9:

Our modern times are by no means monotonous. Our own generation, having witnessed a war unparalleled in history, bloody or peaceful revolutions, the collapse or dismemberment of time-honoured empires, is now called upon to witness the shattering of the classical moulds in which our universal concepts of state and sovereignty were shaped.

The most extraordinary changes have taken place in the international field: the birth of a soviet state, of a fascist state, the creation of the league of nations and, finally, the evolution of the British empire.

This book, if it were written today instead of in 1935, would add: the birth and the inconceivable strength of a soviet state, the birth and collapse of two fascist states, the creation of a second league of nations under a different name and the evolution of the British empire which Churchill himself fears to see liquidated under the present socialist government.

Such is evolution, the march of time, such is, too often, the unforgivable mistake, the abuse of strength, the excess of faith in what certain great men consider as being eternal, which is only human. There is, to use a well chosen expression of my pastor, but one government that will never fall, but one empire which resists to all attacks: everyone, even its most indomitable enemies, know and fear it, although it is not necessary that we name it. Mr. Speaker, it is one of man's characteristics to be slow in acknowledging the inevitable and more so because his interests are always at stake.