

premiers of our two greatest provinces. But it is only by accident that Quebec has a larger territory than Ontario and that Ontario has more natural resources than some of the other provinces. I repeat the words which my dear friend the hon. member for Davenport used at the outset of his remarks: My riding expands as the rest of Canada expands and my province of Ontario expands when the rest of Canada expands. There is no getting away from that. There should be no poor sister in the confederation. When it comes to a meeting of the provinces with the federal government to provide health insurance, old age pensions, mothers' allowance and other social legislation we should all be one, no matter from which province we come. I am sure that no two men have a monopoly of all the grey matter in Canada.

Only yesterday it was announced that the premier of Nova Scotia has accepted an agreement with the federal government. The premier of New Brunswick and the people of that province have just as much intelligence as we in Ontario or the people of any other province. That fine little province of Prince Edward Island, which is smaller in area than my own riding, has its share of grey matter, as is so well shown by its sons scattered all over Canada. The province of Manitoba has good men at the head of its government. Then there is the province of Saskatchewan, and I want to speak a special word of eulogy of the premier of that province. I have read that he was most constructive in the deliberations of the dominion-provincial conference and that he did a good job. If there was anything bad or vicious in signing an agreement with the federal government I am sure that Mr. Douglas, who is an experienced parliamentarian and a true Canadian, would never have signed. The same applies to Alberta and British Columbia. Surely there should be a way of coming to agreement by honest compromise. There is nothing sinister in that. They tell me that when you get married you must be willing to meet your wife half way, and this applies to practically every action in our lives.

Mr. MARTIN: How do you know?

Mr. BRADETTE: I have heard that several times. Why is the air around dominion-provincial relations so vitiated at the present time? I say deliberately that it is done purely and simply for political purposes.

I have in my hand a report of a meeting which was addressed by Mr. Duplessis, premier of the province of Quebec, my native province, at the official opening of International Plywoods Limited at Gatineau, Quebec.

[Mr. Bradette.]

I wish to read an excerpt from an editorial in *Le Droit*, an Ottawa newspaper, of November 18, 1946. I am going to give, first of all, my own translation of this paragraph, and then I shall read it in French so that there can be no comeback on my interpretation of it. Speaking of dominion-provincial relations and the speech of Mr. Duplessis on that occasion, this article, which, I believe, was using the words of Mr. Duplessis, says:

In the first as in the last federal propositions, Mr. Duplessis sees again an assimilation attempt against Quebec, a menace to its right to develop according to her Catholic and French traditions, in taking away from her its financial means of action, in limiting its legislative jurisdiction of social order. Of this legislative centralization, of this assimilation by small portion, but positive on the long run, of this placing under tutelage, of this diminution of the facilities of Quebec, to organize and to develop its life in accordance with its Catholic and French mentality, of this Mr. Duplessis does not want any.

Now I shall read the paragraph from the editorial as it appeared in *Le Droit*:

Dans les dernières comme dans les premières propositions fédérales, M. Duplessis voit encore une tentative d'assimilation du Québec, une menace pour son droit à se développer selon ses traditions catholiques et françaises, en lui enlevant ses moyens financiers d'action et en limitant sa juridiction législative d'ordre social. De cette centralisation législative, de cette assimilation à petite dose, mais sûre à la longue, de cette mise en tutelle, de cette diminution des facilités du Québec à organiser et à développer sa vie selon sa mentalité catholique et française, M. Duplessis ne veut point.

(Translation):

Mr. GAGNON: That is so.

Mr. BRADETTE: No, that is not so; the statement is partly right and partly wrong.

(Text):

I have been a member of parliament for a long time in this fine assembly, and you will not be surprised, Mr. Speaker, and members who are listening to me will not be surprised when I say that I never saw or heard a single member of parliament who would like to see anything happen to provincial autonomy. The reason is very simple. I come here from the province of Ontario. My home town is the little town of Cochrane, a fine little spot in northern Ontario. I like my own town and will fight for it even against the big city of Toronto. I am an Ontarian now and love the province of Ontario and will fight for the province of Ontario because I am an Ontarian. But over and above all that there is a great big loyalty which we all honour and cherish, and that is of being a Canadian; it is Canada. And here in the federal house any legislative assembly has