

been grossly misrepresented. All that we ask is that the power of disavowing provincial laws shall belong exclusively to the Imperial Government, as is the case, with laws passed by the Federal Parliament and as was done before Confederation with laws passed by the Parliament of Canada. This is the only way to protect the Provinces against the arbitrary interference of the Federal Government with the right which they have to legislate as they please on matters within the sphere of their jurisdiction, and which right they never intended to yield up to the Federal authorities when their Legislatures were created.

Moreover, it must not be forgotten that now we are only concerned with the right of veto to be exercised for the purpose of protecting the general interests of the Empire or of the Dominion, and not in the least with cases under Provincial laws which would be *ultra vires* or outside of the jurisdiction of the Legislatures. These cases, which are the most important, the most numerous, and which interest us the most, are, by another resolution, submitted to the decision of the Courts.

There could not be any serious question of leaving any longer this right of veto to the central power. Simple common sense teaches us, that, on this point, the Federal compact contains a fundamental error. The Provinces and the Dominion are two contracting parties in this compact, and each of them has its rights and duties, and should, if not desirous of violating the very basis of the contract, remain within the limits of its attributes. Now, who should decide if one of the parties is violating the articles of the contract? Surely it must be a third party and not one of the parties themselves.

And yet to-day it is the Dominion which decides without appeal that the Provinces have violated the compact, and the Provinces have no means of reaching the Dominion, if it has been guilty of usurpation of power. Evidently this system is too absurd and too unjust to be any longer tolerated.

It is said that this power of disavowal is exercised in England upon the report of a third class clerk in the Colonial office. It may be so; but, in that case, the Federal authorities, whose laws are thus imperilled, are in duty bound to complain. Do they make any complaint? No! they are therefore content. Is there then anything astonishing in the fact that the Provinces should demand a