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My dear Eugenet

I have no doubt you have done some thinking on the question that is now looming large on the Canadian political horizon, viz., on the proposed amendments to the B. N. A. Act, and the attitude of the Provinces--and especially that of the Province of Quebec--thereto. If you have, or when you have, I would appreciate exceedingly if you could let me have your reflections. Meantime, I will give you mine for what they may be worth--in the absence of any particularly concentrated study.

Quite clearly the Province of Quebec anyway is taking the position that the B. N. A. Act is in the nature of an agreement or pact and that it cannot rightfully be altered without the consent of the parties to the pact, and particularly of the initial parties thereto.

Historically, it is, of course, correct that the B. N. A. Act is the consummation, in legislation, of an agreement between the then Colonies--Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The question is:--How far does this historical fact affect the right, or limit in any way the powers, of the British Parliament to amend? It is conceded, of course, that the British Parliament can only amend at the instance of Canada. The question is:--Can, or should, the British Parliament amend at the instance of the Parliament of Canada against the opposition of one of the original parties, say, the Province of Quebec?

It is my view that if an Address from both of the Dominion Houses is presented at Westminster, the British Parliament has no option but to follow the terms of the Address. The British Parliament, once the B. N. A. Act was passed, can know no longer any of the Colonies comprised in the Dominion, but can know only the Dominion itself. The pact as a pact is merged in the legislation as legislation.

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