

speaking out of turn. That is not written in the book; it is written only in his imagination. When he wakes up in the morning it will not be there. I do hope hon. gentlemen opposite will have a heart.

We come now to the resolution as presented to this house by the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe). It has to do with certain amendments to the British North America Act. It confers upon the provinces a new power of indirect taxation of a certain kind. No one disputes their right to impose direct taxation. Section 92 refers to works of a local character and surely we should not start to split hairs in connection with this resolution and what it stands for. May I recall the fact—and I do it kindly—that hon. gentlemen opposite, not of the Social Credit party, not of the Reconstruction party, not of the Labour party, but of the Conservative party, have stretched the constitution and its provisions to the breaking point. It did not break because they knew the right hon. Prime Minister was going to come into power. I believe it was through providence that they held—although by a great effort—to our constitution because they stretched it to the utmost under the peace, order and good government provision. They did every thing but murder the people of this country. They issued their blank cheques and carried on by order in council. Parliament was told: Take it or leave it; I am a dictator. I was surprised to hear my right hon. friend stand up in this house the other day and admit that he was a dictator. He said bluntly, plainly, openly and sophisticatedly—

Mr. BENNETT: I shall have to ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw that. No such statement was made; it was quite the opposite.

Mr. FINN: If I recall the words of my right hon. friend correctly, he said: Dictator as I was, I was unable to get hon. gentlemen who sat with me—

Mr. BENNETT: I shall have to ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. FINN: They say: "Laugh and the world laughs with you; weep and you weep alone." They do that in the quiet of their chambers. I believe that statement is correct although the right hon. leader of the opposition may say at this moment that he did not say what he did say and what I heard him say. His words were to this effect: Dictator as I was, I was unable to place upon the statute books the legislation I desired based upon the Sir

Alexander Gibb report because my followers would not follow me. He blamed the former Minister of Marine, Mr. Duranleau. What did he do with him before he went out of office? He placed him on the superior court bench of the province of Quebec because of his disobedience to his leader and his dictator. These are great days. These are the days of happy recollections and pleasant memories.

Hon. gentlemen opposite, members of all the parties who represent a public opinion different from that of the people of Canada, different from the opinion represented by the right hon. the Prime Minister and by those hon. gentlemen who sit immediately behind and around him, have expressed their opinions. We support our leader because he is always right. Make no mistake about it; he has never made a mistake. There is an old adage, that by our mistakes we learn; therefore the right hon. leader of the opposition and his party still have a chance.

To return to the statute of Westminster. There is not on the statute books of England to-day a law save one which can stand if it conflicts with an act of the parliament of Canada. Is that doing something behind the curtain? Is that being dictated to by the head of the Bank of England? No wonder somebody coughs! But not only that. So far as the provinces are concerned, any imperial statute which conflicts with any provincial law—and that includes the Colonial Laws Validity Act—must go by the board, for all the legislatures stand supreme. The only act that is excepted, the only act that has absolute independence of Canadian parliamentary rights is the British North America Act. Sub-section 1 of section 7 of the statute of Westminster of 1931 provides:

1. Nothing in this act shall be deemed to apply to the repeal, amendment or alteration of the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1930, or any order, rule or regulation made thereunder.

It further provides:

2. The provisions of section 2 of this act shall extend to laws made by any of the provinces of Canada and to the powers of the legislatures of such provinces.

3. The powers conferred by this act upon the parliament of Canada or upon the legislatures of the provinces shall be restricted to the enactment of laws in relation to matters within the competence of the parliament of Canada or of any of the legislatures of the provinces respectively.

Therefore the hon. member for Broadview has his remedy. Therein lies the remedy for every person of whom the ex-Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) spoke this afternoon with