

imposed upon him the further duty of making an inquiry which took him out of Canada as well as over every part of this dominion. I should like to know why. There are many people in this country who would like to know why. And why should we not yet have the report to which reference is made? It is said of these commissions that reports will be tabled in due course, and the other day we did receive one report, or I think two, but that on the textile industry has not yet come to hand. It will be recalled—the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Ross) will remember—that the same commissioner was making a report on the grain act. That report has not yet been received. Presumably it was quite as important as any other that could be made with respect to one of the major industries of this country.

We are next referred to the stresses and strains that this confederation has encountered during the last seventy years and to the work of the royal commission that is dealing with problems connected with those stresses and strains. I have had occasion more than once to refer to this commission, and I will observe that on two occasions, at least, the adjectives that I used were somewhat misplaced and the remarks I made with reference to one member were attributed as a reference to another. I think I had better clear up at once any misapprehension there may be. I was opposed to this commission. I still am, and nothing has more clearly vindicated the soundness of that judgment than what has taken place since it came into being. Behold the spectacle of a commission opening its proceedings in the new provinces of the west and every one of those provinces making demands upon the federal exchequer, which very naturally have their effect upon those who are responsible for the conduct of government in the older provinces where the population is more numerous and their contribution to revenue consequently greater. But the real difficulty about that commission as compared with a conference is this, that in the one case you have an immediate reply made to what is said. You have that debate, that discussion by which a misstatement cannot go unchallenged. That was the whole benefit of the discussions with respect to confederation. The other day one of the newspapers referred to "the commission on reconfederation"; and it is true that this commission is given power to deal with the distribution of legislative powers.

Now, in dealing with that matter it must be clear that no one excepting the provinces themselves is in a position to speak with any authority with respect to their views. What

can be done in the progress of debate? Many a view is put forward which is challenged by the federal power. A discussion ensues and usually an accommodation is arrived at. It is said that the genius of British government is the power to arrive at an accommodation when diverse views are being presented. Here there is no opportunity for that sort of thing. Here there is no opportunity for that discussion between representatives of the federal power on the one hand and the provinces on the other which is essential to sound understanding. And if there is to be a conference afterwards between the provinces and the dominion, think of what has been done to make that conference abortive; think of what has been done to nullify and defeat the very purpose for which it came into being. You have already prejudged your position *ex parte*. You have done it without affording the opportunity for that fruitful discussion and debate which alone will enable agreement to be arrived at.

Apart altogether from that, I did protest against a commission which undertakes to redefine constitutional powers being composed of members of one shade of political opinion. I want to make it abundantly clear that I have the most profound regard for the chairman of that commission. Not only that, I said on one occasion that if a vacancy were to occur in the office of chief justice of Ontario, it being the duty of the prime minister to make the recommendation, I should have recommended Mr. Rowell for that position. I so stated to the then chief justice. But that does not detract from the fact that Mr. Rowell in public life or as a private citizen was a man with strong political views. That is what I said. And I say with respect to the editor of the Winnipeg Free Press, Doctor Dafoe, that he is a man who has managed by one means or another to insult all those who do not share his political opinions. He has been doctor in chief and physician extraordinary to the Bracken government ever since it came into office, and he had the pleasure the other day of having them appear before him and say that if something was not done, they would default. Presumably now, as physician in chief to the whole dominion, he desires to apply a remedy with a like result.

With regard to the gentleman who represents the maritime provinces, I repeat that for bitter partisanship I have never known his equal. I say further that he published a *Look* recently and sent the proofs of it for