

hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Church). I am a one hundred per cent Canadian, I have said so before in this House, and to-day I am surprised at the absence of courage on the part of the government, and especially on the part of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe), in not coming to this House and saying: The way to cure all these inconsistencies that have been found in our constitution is to have Canada become what everybody says she is, a sister dominion, the equal of the Mother Country and of the other member parts of the British commonwealth. We have the right, or we ought to have, to make our constitution, and to have it interpreted by our own courts, not by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, no matter how eminent its members may be. To-day by reason of this discussion we are admitting inferiority of position. We are not enjoying complete self-government now, we never have been, but we ought to be. This question will be in the courts again. Only the other day I read a discussion that has been proceeding in England in regard to what is to be the status of the colonies or the dominions. It is evident that Mr. Amery, who is the head of the Colonial Office, has made some progress, but to my mind his progress is retrograde, it is in the direction of bringing this Dominion more under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. I am afraid that as a result, instead of widening our powers and securing complete autonomy, they will be narrowed and we will find ourselves continued in our old colonial status. I challenge the Minister of Justice to say what the decision of the government is to-day in regard to this constitutional crisis. It should not be our attitude, as my hon. friend from North Toronto says, to rejoice and thank God that there is an arrangement under which disputes which we as Canadians should settle here shall be settled in the Motherland. I spoke on this question at the opening of the session and a large volume of correspondence afterwards came to me unsolicited, from young Canadians all over this country strongly supporting the view that I took in regard to the matter. They think we ought to have what our neighbors to the south achieved a hundred and fifty years ago, namely, the right to make their own constitution; and when they got that right they made their country a great country. If we have the courage to go ahead we shall be in the eye of the world perhaps as much as the Americans are; and I do not suggest by that that in any way we should break with the Mother Country. What I do say is that we

should rid ourselves of this incubus—because that is what it is—of the settlement of our disputes and the determining of these questions in the Old Land. I know pretty well what the view of this House is; I have talked a good deal to hon. members with regard to it. I have been ridiculed and criticized for the views I hold, but I am willing to stand for that. The Minister of Justice in this measure is merely sidestepping the issue. The real issue to-day is whether we are to make and interpret our own constitution or whether it shall be done for us; whether or not we shall remain in the position of an inferior, a junior—an infant in the eye of the law. And we can get this right if we ask for it. Will the Minister of Justice say we would be denied the right of jurisdiction if we applied for it?

Mr. LAPOINTE: I agree with my hon. friend.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): Then why does he not have the courage to state it as representing the party dominating this House to-day? That is where I want to see some courage. He says he agrees with me; why does he not live up to the agreement?

Mr. LAPOINTE: That is another question.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): Yes, but it must be answered, and I am asking for an answer to-day. I have the courage to say what my view is and I know there are many in the House who agree with me. There are a great many in the minister's own province—eminent lawyers—who hold the same view. I hope he will not send this bill to a committee; I would like to see the discussion turn upon the broad constitutional issue, especially in view of the fact that the Parliament of Great Britain is ready any day to give us the power to deal with our own constitution and to make our own division of powers as between the federal and provincial authorities. When that is done we will make some headway.

Mr. MARTELL: If the British parliament did give us that right, could this parliament arrogate to itself certain powers without the consent of the provinces?

Mr. MACLEAN (York): No, quite the contrary. There will be a constitutional conference to settle the question. There have been a great many struggles for constitutional rights in the past; I am reading about them every day. And there is a deplorable condition in Europe to-day because of the absence of constitutional government there. Answering the

4 p.m.