

National Centennial Act

is based. Since we are speaking of the centenary of confederation, we have to go back to the origins of confederation if we wish to celebrate that event which occurred 100 years ago. I am just going back to the origins.

Paragraph 8 of section 92 reads as follows: Municipal institutions in the province;

The legislation concerning loans to municipalities, winter works, etc., shows once more that the federal government has infringed upon provincial jurisdiction.

A quick look at section 93 of the British North America Act, which deals with education, shows that the government has violated provincial autonomy by providing assistance for universities and vocational training establishments.

That is because the government does not abide by paragraph 2 of section 92 which states:

Exclusive powers of provincial legislatures.

Direct taxation within the province in order to provide the raising of revenue for provincial purposes.

In other words, direct taxation comes under the provinces, not under the federal government.

It is precisely because this clause of the constitution has been violated that today so many problems crop up in the path of confederation.

When the hon. member for Port Arthur (Mr. Fisher) asks us what we complain of, then I answer him that we complain of the Canadian constitution not being respected today by the federal government, for they infringe upon the rights of the provinces; and the day such infringement by the federal government stops, we will no longer complain about confederation.

The hon. member for Port Arthur could perhaps take time off to study that clause of the British North America Act, the Canadian constitution; perhaps he would then understand our complaints and would no longer tell us that his knowledge of the French Canadians of the province of Quebec is restricted to Lili St. Cyr and Maurice Richard.

Mr. Chairman, 95 years after confederation, the hon. member for Port Arthur, a former professor, comes and tells us that it is all he knows about the province of Quebec; he certainly has much to learn about our culture.

Had he opened his eyes a little more, he would have seen that we have not only Lili St. Cyr and Maurice Richard, but also great artists such as Raoul Jobin, Leopold Simoneau, Richard Verreault, Wilfrid Pelletier, who have given brilliant performances on the most famous stages in Canada and in Europe.

We have had great artists, scientists, doctors, engineers, who have been a credit to the French Canadian nation.

Had he studied a little more, he would have learned that we have had great statesmen, such as Henri Bourassa, and great politicians, such as Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Mr. Chairman, we may tell him that we know also some great English Canadian artists, great singers, such as John Vickers and James Milligan, and the hon. member for Marquette should certainly know about Irene Salemka, who performed on the stage of the Hamburg and Vienna operas.

We know them because we opened our eyes on the whole of the English Canadian civilization, and the hon. member for Port Arthur should have opened his eyes as we did, to see what was going on on the other side. But he did not; that is why he stated there is only Lili St. Cyr and Maurice Richard as products of the province of Quebec.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I can tell him that we are proud of Maurice Richard, who was a great player on a wonderful hockey team. I can tell him also that he should have opened his eyes to see all our artists and actors who are a credit to Canada on the international scene. Furthermore, I can tell him that, for one who is a school teacher, I find him ignorant for not knowing those things. It may well be that, according to his standards, the value of a man is determined by the thickness of his pocket-book and the money he has in the bank. Should that be his conception of culture, I shall say to him that we, for our part, have a different notion of what real culture stands for. The real value of a man is surely not indicated by the thickness of his pocket-book.

In my opinion, instead of telling us things I would call "stupid", the hon. member for Port Arthur should have remembered all the distinguished citizens of the province of Quebec who have contributed not only to the growth of their own province but to that of Canada as a whole; in short, before asking what we are complaining about, before running us down, he could at least have ascertained whether our demands and claims are justified.

As a former school teacher, he is talking through his hat when he tells us, without knowing what it is all about, that our educational system needs to be changed.

[Text]

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I must interrupt the hon. member and advise him that his time has expired.

Mr. Gregoire: May I have one minute?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.