

Canada Day Act

a highland Scot we are filled with sentiment and emotion and are not as practical as we might well be in the marketplace—will never supersede my loyalty and attachment to the dominion. It seems to me that if that is not the case we are not going to hold together.

I am always impressed by the preamble to the British North America Act:

Whereas the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick have expressed their desire to be federally united into one Dominion—

Someone made reference to events that may come, that may cause us concern and researching of values. But it is the desire to be united that is very important. When that desire is gone there is no name, no title, no slogan that will be sufficient to encompass the reality. But in that preamble there is another reason why the name Canada Day is quite inappropriate for our national birthday, because the preamble says:

Whereas the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick—

There we are enumerating the parts which formed the new entity. Our ancestors in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia did not invite the Canadians to Charlottetown, did not come up to Quebec and did not go to Westminster with them to be submerged into or subsumed under one of the existing provinces, namely, Canada. I say this because the new title, the Dominion of Canada, signified and typified a new political entity. To call it Canada today would be stepping back and picking up the name of one of the constituent parts. I think it would be a very backward step, and here I am being helpful to the people who are supporting a government which is having a little trouble identifying with the east and the west, because the country is a great and broad country. It is not just that part which used to be called Canada East and Canada West. It is a new community and a great community.

I think, too, that those who are concerned about the idea that there is something antique and colonial about this should recall that it was under the title of "dominion" that this country not only achieved its own fully recognized independence but led—and not always is Canada able to lead on the international scene; not always is that position available to us. But in the days of Borden, Canada was in the forefront of asserting its own independence. If we had anything like a declaration of independence it would be the Statute of West-

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

minster, and there are plenty references to the word "dominion" in that particular declaration of our independence.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Macquarrie: Certainly.

Mr. McGrath: I hesitate to interrupt the honourable and learned member, who is a noted Canadian historian, but is he not aware that in the same Statute of Westminster, Newfoundland was also declared a dominion?

Mr. Macquarrie: I am actually aware of that, Mr. Speaker, but it does not force me to abandon either my thesis or my emotional conviction. There was a time when Newfoundland, as the ancient dominion, asserted great leadership, but I know of no historical document which would indicate that the leadership in constitutional development, from colony to independence, gave primacy to Newfoundland over Canada. But I am sure that Sir Robert Borden was well aware of Newfoundland. In fact had things gone a little better at the time, Newfoundland might have come in with the rest of our dominion at that time rather than prolonging their marriage, regrettably I think, for another 30 years.

Mr. McGrath: Shame! I am surprised at the hon. member.

Mr. Macquarrie: I think my colleague misses the thrust of my welcome toward the ancient dominion. I also believe that this suggestion of Canada Day is not a very artistic one. I do not want to be overly critical, but I think it confuses what exists among many people in Britain, in Europe, and probably in other parts of the world—a difference between a name day and a birthday. There are many people who have two celebrations. It is fortunate, I suppose, when you have a name day and that is a celebration, and you have a birthday which celebrates only one event, obviously your birth. I think there is confusion here and it will be a preposterous suggestion to make to other countries. I can imagine an American going around on July 4 saying, "This is United States Day", or the President of France on Bastille Day saying, "I am celebrating France Day" or Mao Tse-tung saying, "This is China Day".

• (3:10 p.m.)

In these efforts toward something new there is a danger of losing something valuable. I say this with regret because I have the highest