

So it goes through the 53 projected pieces of legislation. If they are not all implemented, at least we can be sure that we will be told that we were promised them in the Speech from the Throne. A very wise man has said that it is futile to gild refined gold or to paint the lily. Nevertheless, I might make a few comments on items in the Speech from the Throne that are of particular interest to me. I am sure my colleagues in this debate will fill in any gaps that I leave and will indeed cover much more competently some of the points I mention.

In the first place, I was very pleased, as I am sure we all were, with the gracious reference to the presence of Her Majesty at the celebrations last autumn in Charlottetown and Quebec in connection with those conferences which preceded our Confederation. To those who are interested in history, it is a rather fascinating fact that almost every day now is an anniversary of some event of importance in the march of those years towards union. For example, 100 years ago this month a group of four delegates from the Parliament of Canada, or as it was then, the Parliament of the Province of Canada, were in England, carrying with them what is described as:

...a humble address to Her Majesty "praying that she may be graciously pleased to cause a measure to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament for the purpose of uniting the Colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island in one government based on the Resolutions which were adopted at a Conference of Delegates from the said Colonies held at the city of Quebec on the 10th of October 1864..."

Now, exactly 100 years later, we are told in the Speech from the Throne that Parliament

will be asked to approve an Address to the Queen to provide that the Constitution of Canada may be amended in Canada by the procedures which have been agreed to...

between the federal Government and the governments of all the provinces.

There is a remarkable similarity in the language and a remarkable similarity in the occasions. There are 10 provinces now. There were five then in the contemplated union; two withdrew, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, leaving three.

Honourable senators, as those founders of Confederation—Macdonald, Cartier, Galt and George Brown—were in London, they were faced with the prospect that New Brunswick would very shortly vote against the union and that the popular leader in Nova Scotia, Joseph Howe, would come out against Confederation. Yet they persevered. Whether they were fully aware of the troubles ahead, I do not know; but they carried on with a resoluteness, with a high sense of purpose, far above politics, which one finds somewhat lacking in some of the approaches to the problem of the union today. Perhaps they were successful because they did not always take themselves too seriously.

Honourable senators may be interested in knowing what they were doing in England, almost 100 years to the day, in this month of May. They were watching a French horse come in first in the Derby. In Sir John A.'s words:

We all went down to Epsom in company with Russell, of the Times, by road, in order to see the fun. Russell invited me (there was room only for one) to Mr. Wheatley's (the great wine merchant's) stand, which was just opposite the Royal party. When Gladiateur passed the winning-post, about the length of his nostrils ahead of the second horse, I could have dropped my handkerchief on his head... Coming home we had lots of fun; even George Brown, a covenanting old chap, caught its spirit. I bought him a pea-shooter and a bag of peas, and the old fellow actually took aim at people on the tops of 'busses, and shot lots of peas on the way home. Russell, too, was great fun. In the drive, as we stopped, he would suddenly declaim to a gaping crowd, making a speech à la Jack Cade. Striding up to a stupid policeman, he exclaimed suddenly and with great earnestness, as he caught his arm, "Is the multitude appeased?" "Ah! no, no, sir, no more peas; do not give them any more peas! they have had enough already," was the reply.

I made twenty guineas on that race, the only one I ever bet on. A lot of us got up a pool of a guinea a draw. Galt drew the favourite, Gladiateur; I drew The Field. "You are a lucky fellow," said I to Galt. "I do not know about that", replied he. "There are fourteen horses running, and it is a great chance if one of them does not come in ahead." "Well,"