

Sir Charles Tupper, who sought to force upon the parliament and people of Canada, through his influence and that of his government, something that would have brought about, in my judgment, the disruption of confederation. But the fine texture of mind and the noble vision of Sir Wilfrid Laurier stood out pre-eminently and he said, "Put me in power and I will settle this question by a happy compromise." And did he do it, Mr. Speaker? The question has never been heard of since; the mantle of that great French-Canadian has fallen upon the shoulders of the right hon. leader of the government to-day, and as I survey the situation, I know of no man in Canada who stands more firmly for the broad principles of democracy, who stands and hews more closely to the line of the rights of the people as expressed through their representatives in parliament here and in the legislatures of the respective provinces, than the right hon. gentleman who leads this government in the Dominion of Canada to-day.

In the light of these facts it is well to look down the vista of the past; it is delightful to be reminiscent and to be able to feel that you stand behind a leader who has nothing to apologize for in respect of the positions he took, as I believe the right hon. leader of the government to-day will have no apologies to make to the people of Canada when he again appeals to them for their support and comes back to give Canada a second five years of prosperity as he gave us when he was in power from 1921 to 1930. I do not disparage for one moment the right hon. leader of the opposition or the hon. gentlemen who sit about him. I believe he tried to do his best, but minds sometimes run in grooves, and when they do it is often pretty hard to get them out. That was the trouble with the leader of the opposition. His mind got into a groove and he could not get it out. That is the reason—and I say it kindly—that the people put him out and gave him the honourable position of leader of the opposition in this parliament to-day.

As to the statement of my hon. friend the leader of the social credit party, I noticed this afternoon that he quoted from newspapers, and evidently he is looking at one now as I see him passing it over to one of his confreres. I should like to call his attention to the preamble of chapter 4 of the statutes of 1931 of the British parliament at Westminster, intitled the Statute of Westminster. What does the preamble of that act say?

And whereas it is meet and proper to set out by way of preamble to this act that, inasmuch as the crown is the symbol of the free association of the members of the British

[Mr. Finn.]

commonwealth of nations, and as they are united by a common allegiance to the crown, it would be in accord with the established constitutional position of all the members of the commonwealth in relation to one another that any alteration in the law touching the succession to the throne or the royal style and titles shall hereafter require the assent as well of the parliaments of all the dominions as of the parliament of the United Kingdom.

Does any hon. gentleman in this house whether he belongs to the social credit party, the Conservative party or the party led by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, think for a single moment that England did not extend to the full to Canada and her parliament the greatest autonomy ever given, in connection not only with matters that go to the foot of the throne, but with matters that go to the very throne itself? This cannot be altered unless the dominions which make up the commonwealth of nations are consulted and agree thereto.

The leader of the social credit party is smiling. I am glad to see him smile. This afternoon he made reference to a certain gentleman who has gone to a bourne, not below the ground but across the seas. He is one of those travellers who will never return, Mr. Douglas who was the chief adviser of the Hon. Mr. Aberhart. I suggest to my hon. friends that when they return to their native soil in Alberta they induce some of their friends in the provincial legislature to introduce a bill entitled an act to change the name of the premier from Aberhart to Have-a-heart. Hon. gentlemen of the social credit party undertake to tell this government that they are overstepping the mark; that they are overreaching and doing things not within the constitutional right of this parliament to do, but I think they should put forth their efforts to see to it that Have-a-heart has a heart for his people and gives them that \$25 a month which he promised them instead of coming to Ottawa to seek it from the government of the present Prime Minister. They are ready to criticize that right hon. gentleman because he desires to guarantee the bonds of the provinces of Canada in order that the credit of Canada may stand higher.

Mr. FAIR: The bondholders are taken care of, but the poor of the provinces are to be allowed to starve. What about them?

Mr. FINN: If my hon. friend means to tell me, or to tell the Prime Minister, or to tell any minister of the crown, or to tell any hon. gentleman who sits on this side of the house, that we stand for any legislation to help the rich and starve the poor, then he is