

ered in the mentality which was running through that speech from the first word he uttered until the close, nothing but the narrowest and bitterest kind of partisanship I want to join with my honourable friend who spoke yesterday (Hon. Mr. Schaffner) in saying that, although we have all, I suppose, gone through the fires of partisanship, yet when we come to this Chamber, we should at any rate try to forget those old feuds and old fights. We should remember that we are an independent Chamber, that we are here to take under review the whole of this country, and to bend our energies and contribute our mite to the work of making Canada the great country which we all hope and expect it will be. As I have said, there was nothing but partisanship in the honourable gentleman's (Hon. Mr. Dandurand's) speech. He is an able man, an able speaker, has had long experience in public life; is familiar with the conditions of this country, present and past, and should have some vision in regard to the future. I reflected upon his remarks in order to discover if I could, the reason why he delivered so inappropriate an address, and the only conclusion I could come to was that the honourable gentleman was making what we used to call, when I was in the rough-and-tumble of politics, a political campaign speech, for publication in the province from which he comes.

My honourable friend on the front bench (Hon. Mr. Pope), who spoke after him, mentioned the fact that he comes from the same province. I hope I may be regarded as able to look at this turmoil which has been going on for many years between Quebec and Ontario, through glasses which are not discoloured—to take, in fact, an independent view of the situation. In these days we in Nova Scotia take very little stock indeed in these recriminatory remarks which are made by the political leaders, or some of the political leaders, in both Ontario and Quebec. There was a time when the feuds between these provinces on various local questions seemed to be the only issues which should engage the attention of the people of this great country. The gentlemen who are endeavouring to perpetuate that situation, by continuing those unprofitable discussions and unprofitable allegations, one against the other, forget that this country has grown and conditions have changed, and that the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, important as they may be, do not constitute the whole of Canada. There is a great and growing West. These gentle-

men forget that. The Maritime Provinces are not going behind, nor are they losing interest in public questions. I would have these gentlemen understand that their domestic squabbles, which years ago occupied so big a place in the public eye, are to-day regarded with very little concern by the people of the West and the people of the Maritime Provinces.

The honourable gentleman from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) undertook to give us some information in regard to the province of Quebec and the Union Government. He told us that the province of Quebec spurned Union Government and that Sir Robert Borden bedevilled the province of Quebec. I take issue with my honourable friend in respect to these matters. I do not believe that the province of Quebec spurns Union Government. I am sure that Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not wholly and absolutely spurn it. My honourable friend would have us believe that when Sir Robert Borden suggested the organization of a Union Government, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other Liberals, point blank, without a moment's consideration, waved him back—gave him to understand that they would have nothing to do with it. What are the facts in regard to Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself? On the 24th of May, he tells us, he was invited to a conference with Sir Robert Borden on the question of a Union Government, with conscription as a basis of the union. Did Sir Wilfrid Laurier say at once to Sir Robert Borden, "I will have nothing whatever to do with any such proposition?" My honourable friend from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) would have us understand that that was practically the situation; and many of his friends, if I read their remarks correctly, would have us believe the same thing. That is not the fact. Sir Wilfrid Laurier received the proposals of Sir Robert Borden on the 24th of May, and he kept them under consideration, and under consultation, by himself and with his friends, until the 6th of June. That was not the action of a man who had already made up his mind that he would not even consider conscription, nor entertain the suggestion to enter into a Union Government. From the fact that he took from the 24th of May until the 6th of June to consider and consult, I infer that if he had received encouragement from men like the inflexible honourable member from De Lorimier, if they had not refused to go with him, Sir Wilfrid Laurier would have accepted the proposal of Sir Robert Borden and there