

"We are not advocating centralization of Government. We are not advising the obliteration of state lines. On the contrary, we would deprecate the former and warn against the latter. Our faith in the dual sovereignty, and the nice checks and balances of our system of government has grown in these latter days, as the assaults upon it from both friends and foes have disclosed at once their own futility and the inherent soundness of the object of their attack."

And so in our own case no one to-day advocates the establishment of legislative union, which some of the Fathers of Confederation would have preferred to the present division of legislative powers. Besides, legislative union does not necessarily mean uniformity of laws. You have a familiar example in the case of the British Parliament which preserves the common law for the English and the civil law for the Scots. We ourselves tried the experiment from 1841 to 1867 when we had a common parliament for Upper and Lower Canada which dealt out English law to one province and French law to the other. Even the Autocrat of all the Russias maintains German law in the Baltic provinces, French law in Russian Poland and Swedish law in Finland. Nor does the project which is submitted to your consideration aim at the fusion of the two great systems of law which prevail in Canada. It is not that the task in itself is an impossible one. France and Germany have, indeed, achieved success in this direction under conditions even more complicated than our own. In France the Roman law prevailed in the south, while Teutonic customary law prevailed in the north.

And there were sixty general or provincial customs, and three hundred local customs governing civil rights in cities, towns and villages. Such was the chaos of jurisprudence which the framers of the Code Napoleon were called upon to harmonize. In Germany there were four great systems of different origin, and an infinity of local customs which sometimes differed in the same town according to the side of the street on which you lived. However discredited things "made in Germany"