

PREMIER GUION PRONOUNCES IN FAVOR OF CONFEDERATION

Premier of Quebec Delivers an Able and Statesmanlike Speech on the Francoeur Resolution--English Minority in Quebec Has Always Been Fairly Treated--Language Difficulties Have Always Existed in the World--Quebec Has Suffered From Nothing Except Unjust Criticism.

QUEBEC, Jan. 23.—The debate on the Francoeur motion, that the time has arrived when the province should secede from the Union, was concluded in the Legislature this afternoon. After an able speech by Sir Lomer Gouin the resolution was formally withdrawn.

It had been said, Sir Lomer Gouin stated, that Quebec felt spite as a result of the recent federal elections. It had been claimed that there was disloyalty in Mr. Francoeur's motion. He thought the charge of disloyalty was unjust.

Sir Lomer then recalled that on April 8, 1886, Hon. W. S. Fielding proposed in the legislature of Nova Scotia a resolution that meant nothing

less than the separation of that province from the Canadian federation. Mr. Fielding has justified his proposal by showing the financial embarrassment of Nova Scotia as a result of its union with the rest of the Dominion. Mr. Fielding said he had concluded that it was an absolute necessity for Nova Scotia to secede that it might promote provincial railway enterprises and industries.

The Fielding resolution was adopted by a majority of fifteen votes to seven.

When the conscription issue came up, said Sir Lomer, it became a crime for Quebec to discuss it and to vote against it. Why was it not a crime for the Maritime Provinces to take similar action?

Conscription Stand Unjust.

The premier said that the stand taken in the Dominion against Quebec on the conscription issue was unjust. It was not giving the province fair play.

Discussing his refusal to introduce the motion presented to him by Arthur Sauve, leader of the opposition,

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in which the imperial authorities were to be petitioned to repeal the Military Service Act, Sir Lomer said Mr. Sauve did not dare introduce himself and had not treated him fairly. He (the premier) refused the amendment because it would have been out of order and because he was not in the habit of giving the people of Quebec hopes that could not be fulfilled.

The province of Quebec went on record against conscription at the last election. That was sufficient.

Favors Confederation.

Sir Lomer said that he could state his position quite frankly. He was in favor of the Canadian confederation. Taking into account the needs of the

Dominion, the only mode of governing it was the federation method.

He would also say that had he been a native of another province in 1867 he would have tried to obtain for a French minority in the confederation agreement the same measure of justice that the English minority enjoyed in Quebec.

After reminding the house that Sir George Etienne Cartier had contended that confederation was a necessity to prevent annexation to the United States, the prime minister said the only real opposition to confederation sprang from those who feared that the French-Canadian and English minorities would be ill-used. Never had the English-speaking minority been molested since Canada had enjoyed responsible government. There had never been an attempt at molestation.

The Language Difficulty.

As an example that friction was sometimes inevitable between provinces and a central power, Sir Lomer pointed to the United States. He said that Quebec had no reason to complain.

Referring to the fears that had been expressed regarding the treatment that might be accorded to minorities, he asked what would be the position of French-Canadians outside the province of Quebec in the event of secession. He said there were now 500,000 French-Canadians outside the province of Quebec, and he asked whether these would be better without confederation. With regard to the school questions in New Brunswick, Manitoba and Ontario, he said that those who had been unjust to the mi-



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nority had shown unpardonable weakness.

Language difficulties had existed since the Tower of Babel and even before that time. These difficulties were regrettable, but this division would settle itself. After the war there would be so much to repair and

(Continued on page 3.)

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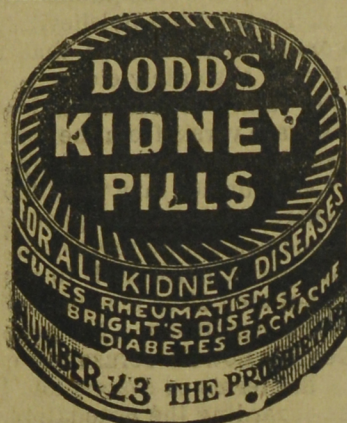


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It will be well on in February before any large supplies of raw sugar reach Canada, and in the meantime the supply will be limited owing to the small stocks on hand.

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During the whole year it has been our constant aim to keep the Canadian public supplied with "LANTIC PURE CANE SUGAR" at reasonable prices.

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