

## Resolutions from Assembly No. 2, Native Sons of Canada

*Adopted September, 1926 - Preamble Omitted*

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That, this Assembly do herewith submit its views to the Right Honourable, Prime Minister of Canada and his colleagues on the following matters of national, namely:

### 1. **SOVEREIGN STATUS:**

Recognizing this question as being of outstanding and paramount importance, this Assembly urges upon the Government of Canada the necessity of elevating CANADA constitutionally to the dignity and status of a NATION, with international recognition, enjoying SOVEREIGN RIGHTS AND POWERS, under the CROWN, and thereby confer on Canada an equality of Status with Great Britain, together with all the advantages incident thereto now exclusively enjoyed by Great Britain as the only sovereign nation in the British Commonwealth. No subject that may come before the conference can possibly approach this question of status in importance.

Our objective should be clear an unambiguous, an absolutely equal and **independent sovereignty under the Crown of Canada**, internationally communicated and internationally recognized.

### 2. **IMMIGRATION:**

This Assembly is unalterably opposed to assisted Imperial immigration in any form, and in particular is opposed to a Policy designed to unload on Canada immigrants from Great Britain as alleged settlers, who are mentally, morally and physically unfit, thereby tending to lower the high standard of Canadian Citizenship.

We hereby urge on the Government of Canada the need for closer restriction rather than relaxing the tests and standards for admission to Canada.

In this connection, this Assembly respectfully begs to draw the attention of the Prime Minister and his colleagues to the pernicious and incessant Imperial propaganda constantly issued both in Great Britain and in Canada,

which is aimed at unloading deserters and other undesirables into Canada, with the designed object of relieving the British taxpayer at the expense of the Canadian taxpayer.

This Assembly CONDEMNS such anti-Canadian propoganda as being distinctly inimical to the national welfare of Canada.

We emphatically declare that the question of Immigration into Canada is, by terms of the British North America Act, exclusively CANADA'S OWN BUSINESS, that it is not an Empire matter, that it is not a partisan or political matter as the Bishop of London suggests, that it is entirely a matter at present of administration, and that all CANADIANS, irrespective of party, approve of the intent and purpose of the present Canadian Immigration Act in respect of its broad principles. We declare our resentment and indignation at the persistent anti-Canadian campaign, emanating from Imperial quarters, to offset, and overcome the present rapid growth of Canadian NATIONAL feeling by schemes of assisted Immigration of types that are unsuited to this country and foreign to its history and background.

**We believe** that the time has come when the long brooding sense of NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS is about to be realized, and that it is vital to the National interest that our national bloodstream should be conserved, and not diluted by the admission of elements that will weaken or delay our national unity or foster a divided loyalty. The present Canadian stock should be the basis in selection of all applicants for privilege of admission to Canada.

### **3. IMPERIAL DEFENCE:**

This Assembly is emphatically opposed to involving Canada in any schemes of Imperial commitments or engagements, which tend to devolve upon Canada any part of cost of any alleged obligation of so-called Imperial Defence.

### **4. CANADIAN RESOURCES:**

This Assembly is further opposed to any Imperial Scheme, proposal or policy, which would seek to appropriate Canada's great natural resources as an Imperial asset, but on the contrary, holds to the view that such

resources are exclusively the property of the Canadian people and should be at all times developed on broad lines of national policy for the primary benefit of Canada, and Canadians.

## **5. GOVERNOR-GENERAL:**

This Assembly re-affirms its attitude previously expressed that the method of appointment of the Governor-General is ripe for a radical change more in consonance with national dignity; the appointment should be the completely unfettered act of the Government of Canada. The appointee should be a distinguished citizen of this country. In respect of personnel, and in respect of initiative of nomination, the present procedure is an expression of colonialism which should no longer be permitted to survive. Further, the channels of communication between the Government of Canada and any other country should be direct, via our Department of External Affairs.

We particularly object to the suggestion that in respect to the future appointments of Governor-Generals, the unanimous approval of other Dominions must be obtained before there be any change in policy.

## **6. PRIVY COUNCIL APPEALS:**

The decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in **Rex vs. Nadan** is fraught with humiliation for the people and Parliament of Canada. We cannot think it possible that Canada will rest satisfied with a decision that prevents her from dealing exclusively with her own laws, particularly in a matter of CRIMINAL PROCEDURE. Canadian statesmen who make speeches about Canada's "PROUD POSITION" as a "self-governing independent nation" cannot be aware of the terms and implications of this judgement.

This Assembly expresses surprise and regret that during the past Session of Parliament this matter was not even referred to by any Member of the two great parties in the House. That decision stands as an effective barrier to the full development of Canadian National consciousness. We favour the entire abolition of appeals to the Privy Council.

## **7. LOCARNO, WAR, NEUTRALITY...:**

This Assembly is convinced that so long as the present anomalies of Canada's status continue the advantages to Canada from participation in Imperial Conferences are largely negative.

The Conference is built on a Constitutional fiction, that all the representatives meet as equals. The test - "What is Canada internationally?" is the true test. And until Canada, either by her own act, or by Imperial concession, attains SOVEREIGNTY as an independent nation under the Crown, with international recognition, her position in respect of Britain's Wars, neutrality, and her international relationships in general, will remain clouded and obscure. That position will be and remain, both constitutionally and internationally, that of a colonial status. Mere rhetoric cannot overcome this inescapable fact.

/s/ R. R. SMITH

*Note with Reference to Resolution Sent to the Prime Minister Prior to the Imperial Conference in England, 1926*

### **Extract from Executive Minutes of September 1, 1926.**

On motion of Conlin Reid, a resolution presented on behalf of Brother R.R. SMITH was referred to the Resolutions Committee.

The Assembly sent, on September 24th the following wire to Prime Minister MacKenzie King:

*"Native Sons of Canada, Assembly No. 2, begs to tender congratulations and to express its satisfaction that for the future relationship of the Crown, in Canada, to its Ministerial advisers shall be identical with its relations to its ministry in England. Forwarding by mail our submission on opinion of subjects likely to be considered as forthcoming Imperial Conference."*

The original of this paper is to be found in the Parliamentary Library, Ottawa.