

a firm basis an industrial system which is the wonder of the world; enlarged and diversified the field for the employment of skilled labor and increased its reward; encouraged the application of mental power in production and distribution and in the economical expenditure of human force; laid the foundation for a navy commensurate with the possibilities and needs of our rapidly growing foreign trade; developed an internal or domestic commerce far exceeding in value and tonnage that of any other nation; invested large sums in promoting the development of our vast mineral resources; created and established a national banking system which has won the confidence of our wisest and most experienced financiers; restored and raised the credit of the nation in the financial centers of the world to the highest rank; constructed the most complete and extensive telegraph and telephone systems known to man; established and developed a daily press without a rival in power and influence for good in any country; more than doubled our population; nearly quadrupled the market value and earning power of our national resources; enormously increased the ability of our people to produce the necessaries, comforts, and luxuries of life; subjected, directed, and employed the elements and forces of Nature for the service of man to a greater extent and in a larger field than any other people, and constructed and equipped at a cost of \$10,000,000,000 nearly 150,000 miles of railway.

With our financial, commercial, industrial, educational, and political institutions firmly established and directed, by a higher average intelligence in the future than in the past, with greater freedom of individual thought and action, and the causes most likely to disturb the harmonious working of all the parts for the general good removed, what may we not accomplish as a nation for the welfare of the human race and the promotion of self-government?

Continental union upon equal and honorable terms gives the Canadian people an equal share in all the benefits, privileges, and opportunities which we now or hereafter may enjoy towards the creation and preservation of which they have not made any contribution. Is it unreasonable for us to insist that the only