

tude perfectly clear. He emphatically declared, as you will remember, that in acting as they did neither he nor his government had the slightest intention of changing the constitutional relations existing between the Dominion and the Mother country, "If we are to be bound to take part in all the wars of Great Britain" remarked Sir Wilfrid Laurier to Mr. Bourassa "I entirely share the opinions of my honorable friend, that is to say, that supporting the burdens of war we must also share in the powers and responsibilities". Surely nothing could have been clearer than that. But despite the "no precedent" clause and the clear and emphatic declarations of Sir Wilfrid Laurier explaining the real attitude and intentions of the Canadian Government, the ultra-Imperialists cunningly made the sending of the troops a pretext for still furthering their ambitious designs. Mr. Chamberlain, the high priest of Imperialism, even went so far as to attach to the sending of the Canadian troops a meaning that was never intended by the Canadian Government and which had been distinctly repudiated by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Canada's action he hailed to quote his exact words "*as an expression of that growing feeling of the unity and solidarity of the Empire which has marked the relations of the Mother country with the colonies during recent years.*"

Under Chamberlain's guidance and inspiration the Imperialists thereafter continued their efforts with greater persistency than ever, principally making use of the machinery of the Imperial Conferences to impose their aims on the overseas dominions and gradually to accomplish what was nothing short of a revolution in the relations of the Dominion to the mother country as far at least as the question of military and naval defence was concerned. The beginning of these conferences which were at first known as the Colonial Conferences but which were later termed the Imperial Conferences dates back to the year 1887 when taking advantage of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession the Imperial government then under the premiership of Lord Salisbury, a most ardent Imperialist, decided to assemble