

"There must be a change. It rests chiefly with the men in the Dominions to find some method by which the unity which has characterised us in the war will be found to be as durable when peace comes¹."

The persistency, not only in thought but in the very words used, is quite significant. It indicates a matured opinion and a set policy in the mind of one who happens to be officially responsible both for the colonial policy of the Coalition ministry and the leadership of the dominant faction in the cabinet. Besides, the opinion expressed by Mr. BONAR LAW is amply justified in fact.

The active and intense participation of the self-governing Dominions in the war declared by Great Britain alone has revolutionised the political order of the Empire. The old régime of colonial autonomy and neutrality has ceased to exist. That it can never be resurrected is quite evident to all who have eyes to see and brains to think.

What is to be the new basis of the Imperial polity? That is the problem. To study it right now is the imperative duty of all true British citizens, whether in the United Kingdom or abroad. In England the problem is considered urgent. In Australia and New Zealand, in South Africa, in India, all serious minds are engrossed with the preoccupation of preparing the near future. Of all British communities composed of supposedly civilised beings, Canada alone does not appear to be concerned in the slightest degree with this huge problem, the most ponderous raised in the British Empire since the American Revolution. In the province of Quebec, especially, the conspiracy of silence is complete.

Curiously enough, the proof of the revolution accomplished, and the justification of nationalist resistances, are to be found exclusively in the words and deeds of British Imperialists. The leaders of the Imperialist school, in England, are infinitely more courageous, sincere and honest, than their colonial tools. As to the English Liberals, they, like their prototypes 'beyond the seas', appear to be stampeded, down-trodden and disarmed. Grumbling under the yoke, they follow, with reluctant docility, their Imperialist masters.

¹ Extract from a speech delivered in London, October 7; special report to the *Montreal Standard* of October 3th.