

contention is incompatible with a true national spirit. There is a national spirit in Canada which you cannot smother and it will be to the front before this question is finally decided. I am sure no one will controvert the idea that we must be equal to the citizen of Britain; I am sure no one will refuse to subscribe to the sentiment: daughter in our mother's house but mistress in our own, if we are to wear and bear the honour of young nationhood. Such a sentiment is the true and firm basis of the British Empire. I see in this proposition and within the four corners of this Bill an insidious, undermining of self-government in Canada, a return to the Royalist idea of 1776 which still has friends and defenders in this country although it is fraught with equal danger now as it was then. There are those among us who are reactionaries and who prefer the rule of oligarchy to that of Parliament and the people, and who think that Canada's position should be one of perpetual subordination and not one of equality. There are those in Canada who preach the doctrine of federal union with Great Britain. Personally I think that such a course would be a most disastrous failure. Our training is different, our conditions are different; there is a democracy incident to a new country that cannot assimilate itself with the class and caste conditions of a country like England. We realize that when we are brought in contact with these ideas; go to the old land if you will and there you will be looked upon as being of an inferior class, a colonist not equal to a colonizer. I do not complain of that for it is an incident of condition, of training, and of environment, and we can no more change our views than can the people in the old land change theirs. I say, Sir, that the moment you attempt to have federal union of the overseas dominions with the Motherland, that very moment you are going to create barriers between the different British peoples, and there will be a loss of dignity and power on our part. What would be the advantage if we had representation in a great federated parliament? What would be the power and influence of the small handful of representatives to which we would be entitled, in comparison with the larger number that would sway, control and govern in that federal union? The antagonism that would be born of that experience would be fraught with the greatest danger and menace to the British Empire and to Canada as one of the young nations in that federal union. I am therefore personally and individually, distinctly, utterly and wholly opposed to the proposition in any form. I wish to be associated, as a member of a young Canadian nation, with Great Britain and with the other nations

Mr. EMMERSON.

beyond the seas, associated as we are by the intangible ties which are stronger, more potent and more durable than would be any ties that we could in any way mould or make by any legislative enactments. What has made this Empire but the self-reliance of its component parts? Tell me that Canada has not contributed to the building up of the British Empire and to its prestige, as it stands to-day; tell me that Canada, with her development, her territorial area, her wealth of resources, her industrial advancement, the education of her people, the virile and determining force that characterizes Canadians, is not a factor and an important factor in the British Empire, and you tell me what history itself would refute. The majority of our people have come from the British Isles; but combined with us, we have the best from other lands. We have men who are themselves an asset of the British Empire, which is not to be overlooked; we have a people here who are determined to achieve and who will achieve great results in the building up of this Canadian nationhood. Attempt to smother that feeling, that spirit of nationhood, and you undermine the British Empire itself; you sow the seeds of destruction, discontent and dissatisfaction. I do not believe that even a sentiment is abroad against the continuance of the ties of Empire. I do not think my hon. friends opposite, who are so free with their charges as to disloyalty, believe that there is any sentiment in this country of that nature. If there is, and if our course on the policy of naval defence is evidence of that sentiment, the British Empire at this moment is tottering to its fall. While we have the spectacle of an Australian confederation building its own fleet of ships, manning and maintaining them, we also have the spectacle of more than half of Canada supporting the idea of independent navies. If that is evidence of separation, then indeed the British Empire is imperilled. Hon. members opposite are not to be congratulated in adopting that line of argument in favour of the resolution and the Bill under consideration.

We in Canada rather incline to the sentiment that there should be no more war. We, as a people, are more concerned in the advancement of our civilization, in the teachings that emanate from a period of 2,000 years ago, namely, the principles of peace, of content and of harmony, than in militarism or in the achievement of great armament; but in the hour of peril and in our own defence we are interested in making every sacrifice. I have had handed me a copy of the Presbyterian, a weekly review published in Toronto. I think it is my duty to call the attention of the House at this moment to the sentiments