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Published Weekly.

12
Vol. 5, No. 1.

OTTAWA, JAN. 2, 1904.

Whole No. 248.

Treaty-Making Powers.

DR. GOLDWIN SMITH, in discussing the proposed possession by Canada of treaty making powers, does not believe that they are compatible with the status of a dependency. But does Canada occupy the status of a dependency? Did anyone ever hear of a dependency which taxed the commodities of the parent state? Canada is a dependency in theory only. In practice always and actually as an accepted fact Canada is an autonomous self-governing nation. From that basis we must argue this question. Dr. Goldwin Smith, although an able and gifted publicist, is a writer who views such questions from the standpoint of theory and the logical sequence, but the government and the people of Canada are face to face with actual conditions and must deal with them as they exist.

In a speech he delivered at the Imperial Institute in 1895 on the occasion of a send-off to the new governor of Western Australia, Mr. Chamberlain, then colonial secretary, referred to Western Australia as "this young nation." The population of Western Australia at that time was 76,000—just about the population of the city of

Ottawa and suburbs—and its annual revenue was \$5,500,000. The only respect in which Western Australia at that time was important was in respect of its territorial area, eight times the area of the United Kingdom. Nevertheless in speaking of a colony that is more than a hundred years behind Canada, Mr. Chamberlain used the following language:—

"And here, in the old country, we have nothing but good-will and sympathy for this vigorous offshoot of the parent race. We have, of course, relinquished absolutely all right to interfere. We have hardly a claim, except perhaps the claim of kinship and mutual interest, even to offer suggestions, but I think we may venture to hope that this colony, while profiting by the experience of other self-governing communities, will not hesitate to strike out a line for itself if its interests should dictate a separate course."

According to Mr. Chamberlain, therefore, an infant colony with a total population less than any one of several Canadian cities had so much the right of self-government that Great Britain had "relinquished absolutely all right to interfere." Can any person think that with Canada, a nation with a history of its own