

The Present Duty First

The future prosperity of our cause and the destiny of our Association is in your hands to-day, therefore, I would urge upon you who are here representing the men and women banded together in all parts of this fair Dominion, to attend strictly to the duties of the present. All matters placed before you should have your careful consideration before acted upon, so that the future interest and welfare of our Order may reap the results of your carefully laid plans in the building of this great super-structure which rests upon the foundation of charity, and rears itself in humble submission to Him for whose glory it exalts, to a place high among our sister institutions. Let us labor in love and unity to preserve this monument, which reminds us of the faithful tollers of the past, and around which ever was, and can still be found some of the most stalwart tollers in the cause of Protestantism.

Imperial Protestant Federation

This organization with which we are identified continues in its work uniting all Protestant bodies within the British Empire into one grand federation, so that we may co-operate with each other and show a united front whenever the religious liberties and freedom we now enjoy are molested. The watchfulness of this organization has been a source of strength to Protestantism. A large amount of valuable literature is freely distributed each year which makes known to the inactive and sleeping Protestant the necessity of guarding every position we now occupy so that we may hand down to those who follow the banner of truth and justice, which protects all in the enjoyment of their religious rights. In the accomplishment of so great a work for the good of our common cause the Imperial Protestant Federation is deserving of our sympathy and financial support. A small contribution given annually by every member would not be missed by us, but would be very noticeable in its great usefulness in the hands of the Federation. Let us, in a practical way, show our interest in this movement.

Autonomy Bills

These bills have been so freely discussed in the House of Commons, and in public, that it is unnecessary for me to add anything to what has been already said in condemnation of the educational clauses contained therein and passed by the Parliament of Canada, forcing a Separate School System upon the new Western Provinces, seeking to divide a truly loyal and British colony.

As an association the future prosperity of the Dominion should be ever uppermost in our minds. Any system which will cause separation of the rising generation, be it educational or otherwise, is a detriment to the British Empire, and a kindling of hatred towards each other which cannot but work irreparable injury to any people or nation. Let us assist in sending men to Parliament who are fearless of political parties, or party leaders, men who have been tested and have only the interest and future good of our country at heart, men who are ready to do justice to the people whom they represent, men who will defend the rights of others and who are willing to abolish the special privilege system. Let our motto be, One Public School System, binding together the national life of our people, one flag and one language.