

Lloyd George, or of Mr. Churchill, or of the Colonial Secretary—whose name I venture to say scarcely any one of this intelligent audience can for the moment recall—we hear our master's voice soothing us by saying that we are "masters in our own household;" that we exercise a freedom "absolute, unfettered and complete," and we become puffed up with a sense of foolish pride and self-importance, until some critical issue arises in our external relations, of perhaps supreme importance to Canada, such as the Declaration of London, a Prize Court Convention, or the negotiation of a permanent treaty of arbitration with the United States, a treaty of offensive and defensive alliance with Japan, or the like, by which our most vital interests are affected, but concerning which our responsible representatives are never even consulted, and in respect of which we no more exercise the responsible rights of citizens of the Empire than if we were inhabitants of such feeble foreign states as Liberia or Patagonia.

We are one day filled with rejoicing that His Gracious Majesty, for whose person and family we have the most loyal esteem and sincere affection, has deigned to appoint his most distinguished kinsman as Governor-General of this country, but soon, by one incident after another, we may be forced to realize that our Viceroy's official instructions emanate from the Colonial Secretary—whose name a moment ago we could not even recall—and that our Viceroy's official acts, in relation to all Imperial or Inter-Imperial interests, are dictated from the same source.

We sometimes fancy that our Parliament and Government exercise their powers, circumscribed though they are, by virtue of an irrevocable constitutional right, but ultimately we are forced to recognize the undoubted fact, no matter how permanent the delegation, expressed in the British North America Acts, may appear to be, that those powers are exercised under a delegated and revocable authority—revocable, at will, by a Parliament, which is solely responsible to the electors of Great Britain and Ireland, whose special interests its members are elected to conserve.

We may be thankful that the King—God bless Him—is our King, and that he and his descendants will ever remain the symbol of Imperial Unity, imperfect and anomalous though that Unity may be, but even this consolation is no longer left us, for by abrogating the veto powers of the House of Lords, the popular representative