

are in a position like them. Sir, I am glad the leader of the political party that found it necessary to express such a sentiment in favor of annexation to the United States before the independence of this country, if choice had to be made, was found leading the party opposed to the one I am associated with.

Mr. BOWELL. Why not accompany that statement with the reason the right hon. gentleman gave at the time.

Mr. PATERSON. I can give you the reason. He said Canada was not able to hold her own, that she was too small, that the condition in which she was placed was one that rendered her unable to develop herself.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. That annexation would follow.

Mr. PATERSON. I have it here:

"Independence is a farce—Canada must belong either to the British system or to the American system. Here we are with 4,500,000 people lying alongside of 55,000,000, the most unhappy position in which a nation can be placed, the most crushing to its energies and its intellect, the most destructive to its prosperity is that of living next door to and at the sufferance of a powerful neighbor. Look at Europe and you see the position which small nations occupy. Look at Belgium and Holland, Belgium trembling for fear France will take her, and Holland in fear of Germany. There is no spirit, there is almost hopelessness in those countries; and I say, looking at the question of independence that if we had to make a choice between independence and annexation, I would rather that we should have annexation and join with the United States at once than be here a small nation, a dependent nation obliged to raise the phantom of an army and navy, obliged to have foreign Ambassadors at an enormous expense, and after a brief existence to be absorbed as Texas and California were absorbed, and as Mexico will be absorbed."

There is a statement endorsed by the party by ringing cheers at Toronto and by the ringing cheers of the hon. gentlemen opposite in this House. Annexation for these men before independence, holding out Holland and Belgium as an instance of what Canada is. Holland and Belgium, surrounded with powerful nations, no room to develop themselves, no more territory to conquer, no land to which to invite the emigrants of other countries. That is the likeness this Canada of ours is compared to by the great leader of the party opposite. I see representatives who from 1,200 miles to the east have come here, and I see representatives in this House who have come here 3,000 miles from the west, and I will see, if I live a few years, men coming from thousands of miles from the North-West standing in this House. Yet these hon. gentlemen opposite talk about Holland and Belgium as being fit comparisons of this great country. They talk about raising the phantom of an army, the phantom of a navy—words from the leader of the party opposite—when we have 50,000 trained men now and are paying for them. They talk of the phantom of a navy when we now rank fourth in mercantile marine among the nations of the earth. They talk to us of being like Holland and Belgium, when we have not only all the old provinces, but have the North-West as a home for millions and millions of people from all climes and from all zones, whom we ask to cast in their lot with us. "Holland and Belgium, young men of Canada," says the leader of the Conservative party, "look to those countries, with their energies crushed, almost paralyzed; your Canada is like theirs." A fine picture for the young men of this country; a fine picture to induce the young men of Canada to develop their energies and lead on. Sir, I give the monopoly of these sentiments to hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. We maintain and firmly adhere to the British Crown; but, Sir, if the time comes which the leader of the Government refers to, when a choice would have to be made, if the Government of England should submit the question to this country, if choice had to be made, and the question was put to me whether I would go for annexation with the States, or for an independent country, I would say, and many others would say it with me, I am a Canadian freeman; I see from the east to the west, a fertile region; I see that our

shores are washed by three oceans; I see that we have the largest fresh water seas on the globe; I feel the life-blood of a Canadian pulsing through my veins; and if choice is to be made, the choice I shall make will be this: That Canada, maintaining her own separate existence, should go forward, hew her way, nobly go forward, triumphantly—not defiantly—till she reached the fulfilment of the great destiny that I believe is hers, of being a nation of people among whom shall exist liberty and order and freedom, and the highest state of civilization, and whose right arm shall ever be extended in the hour of Britain's need—if Britain should ever have an hour of need—to help her as devotedly as she has done in the past. These are my sentiments, and let hon. gentlemen opposite wipe out the expression of their leader, let hon. gentlemen blot out the cheers with which they endorsed it a short time ago, before they venture to charge hon. gentlemen sitting on this side of the House with being in favor of annexation to the United States. No, Sir; and it is because I see the grand future that is in store for our country, that we have here a country with immense possibilities which are calculated to stimulate our young men to develop the noblest sentiments that are in them. And, Mr. Speaker, it is because we believe in this great possibility, and desire rightly to develop the immense resources of this country, that we want them not to be belittled, and we want the ambition of our young men not to be crushed out by sentiments so derogatory to their country. What we want to do in this House is so to legislate that, in this country, which I believe has such a magnificent future before it, we shall prevent all monopolies, all preying of one class upon another; that all unjust laws shall be taken from our Statute-books, and that we shall be able in all our deliberations in this Assembly ever to remember that we stand here two political parties, opposed to one another on many points, but one party having as much right as the other, the right to express its sentiments; ever remembering that in the heat of strong debate gentlemen opposed to us are gentlemen, that we are not to indulge in personalities; ever remembering that we should guard our tongues against uttering charges against public men that are not true and only maintain such charges as may be fairly urged against them in their administrative capacity, that, laying aside all such methods, we shall rise to the discussion of subjects on their own merits, and thus set an example to the young men of Canada, outside these walls, worthy of their imitation; ever remembering that others should enjoy freedom of thought and freedom of speech with ourselves, and that we should be able to bear quietly the arguments that may be advanced by our opponents. I believe that we have before us the possibilities of a great heritage, that a grand future is before us; and I would desire, recognising my own failings as I might the failings of others, that we may be enabled, as legislators in this House, to have this for our aim and object at any rate, though we may have different ways of accomplishing them, that our hearts shall be united together as one man, that Canada shall be made to increase and prosper, and that we shall set such an example to those outside this House as to argue on their merits all questions that may be discussed with reference to the future welfare of this country; that all unseemly strife and bickering, and harsh personalities are not necessary between the public men of Canada; but that when the people have rightly understood and determined upon these questions, effect shall be given to their wishes. I have been led to make my remarks at greater length than I intended as the interruptions with which I have met have led me a little out of the path I intended to pursue. I have endeavored to argue the question on its merits, to show what my course has been in the past on this question; and while I do not pretend to say that I would not modify my views and learn lessons