

we should take a leading place in a great political organization—The British Empire—now in process of growth and development. Our geographical position is in itself commanding. Writing in 1894 the Colonial editor of the Times said of Canada, "She possesses without question a position of central importance in the British Empire, the Atlantic Ocean gives her natural communication with the United Kingdom and South Africa; the Pacific offers her equally easy communication with India and Australia and the East. She commands the commercial highroad of two hemispheres."

Is it not fitting then that we should bestir ourselves? that we should not allow the besetting sin of apathy to obtrude itself? that we should in all respects perform the filial duties befitting the eldest daughter in the great family of British nations?

Today, the widely sundered groups of British people comprising diverse races and creeds and languages, are animated by a community of sentiment; they have fallen heir to great possessions in all quarters of the globe, and it is surely one of their first duties to safeguard, to consolidate, and develop their magnificent heritage.

To bring the Empire into shape and form many things are needed; in not a few of these we Canadians can render yeoman aid; in some things we may, indeed, as we have already done in the matter of Imperial penny postage, take a leading part. I propose to point out what Canada can do for the Empire by placing the telegraph service by land and sea, between Vancouver and London under State control.

At the Press Banquet last night, where I had the honour to be a favoured guest, it was pointed out very forcibly by the Premier that, in the interest of unity, stability and progress, one of the most important offices of the Press is to cultivate friendly relations between the various elements of the population. "In my own time" said Sir Wilfred, "I have seen daily and yearly the work of unification of our country." "The members of the Association have done a great deal to promote that harmony"—this feeling would grow, the more the people of the several Provinces became acquainted with each other."

Is not this beneficent function of the Press of wide application? I think you will all concede that the King's subjects everywhere should be better acquainted than they now are; that, as far as possible, the several great groups of British people around the globe should be on terms of intimacy. I ask, does that condition now prevail? what intimacy have we with our nearest British neighbours on the western side? What do New Zealanders and Australians know of us, or we of them? The answer is,—next to nothing; and how under present conditions could any intimacy, if it existed, be maintained? As Professor Short pointed out in the last Canadian magazine, the component parts of the Empire stand most in need of a better knowledge of each other. To this end, we have to invoke the powerful good offices of the press, aided by the telegraph, the most perfect means yet discovered or likely to be discovered for the free interchange of knowledge.