

made so many sacrifices in the early days. It sometimes seems to me that one of the greatest gifts from the maritimes to their fellow-Canadians is that men trained in the legal, engineering and other professions, or even as farm labourers, have left those communities for the west and assisted those coming from the old country to our Canadian west in establishing those three great prairie provinces on a basis of sound constitutional government and respect for English law and English institutions; they have given of their best endeavours to build up the west. Scotland has done the same thing; her sons have been dispersed throughout the whole British Empire.

Then there is another cause. I remember from my boyhood days that the county of Yarmouth, in which I was born, owned more shipping per capita sailing the seven seas than did any other part of the world. But with the coming of steamships that shipping has disappeared, and there has been no other industry to take its place. There have been many things detrimental to the progress and prosperity of these provinces, but I do believe that this parliament as a whole will give its most careful and favourable consideration to any measures of relief which may be brought before it in the hope of mitigating some of the grievances to which these provinces are subject.

With respect to the Imperial conference, one cannot understand the real position without reflecting somewhat upon the conditions which have prevailed in recent years, dealing with not only inter-imperial relations but also with the relations between the dominions of the empire and foreign states. The British Empire consists on the one hand of Great Britain with her vast aggregation of colonies and possessions which are directly under the supervision, the direction and in a large measure the control of the British government. Then there is India, which is only partially autonomous, for which in recent years the Morley-Minto scheme, the Montagu-Chelmsford reform scheme, and finally in 1919 the Government of India Act, have provided for a certain measure of self-government for that country, possibly placing it in a position leading to ultimate complete self-government. Then we have the six dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland, the Irish Free State, and South Africa, all of which with the exception of Newfoundland are members of the League of Nations. The constitutional developments of recent years have tended more and more to distinguish between these six dominions and the dependencies of the British Crown to

[Mr. Cahan.]

which I have referred, and in my own opinion—and I think in the opinion of all—the survival of the British Empire depends upon the continuous co-operation of all the parts in carrying out the common ideals which constitute the standard of possible attainment. These common ideals have not yet fully developed; they have not yet been fully proved, and it is possible that the basis of cordial co-operation has not yet been fully attained. So it must remain the duty and responsibility of this generation of Canadians, and of every succeeding generation, to make its contribution, however meagre, to the living growth of our national life, and to the slow but sure development of our political institutions.

There has been in recent years a more constant development in the direction of a more direct and extended consultation between Great Britain and the dominions. This is no novel method. As far back as the days before the declaration of the independence of the United States, Edmund Burke was for years the agent in London of the state of New York, in direct communication with the British government, while from time to time the state of Pennsylvania sent Benjamin Franklin to London as a special commissioner to adjust matters with the British government. Our older British colonies did the same thing, and were so represented at intervals. In 1880 we sent a high commissioner to London for the first time to provide a source of information between this country and the British government, and although it is sometimes said that our successive high commissioners at London have been somewhat estranged from the ideals of this country, and that in the atmosphere of London they did not clearly apprehend the views of the people they represented, yet I think it is the opinion in this country that without exception our high commissioners have represented Canada in a manner that merits approval for themselves, and in such a way as to facilitate the development of a better feeling of goodwill between this Canada of ours and the mother country in which they were our representatives. I think on the whole they have faithfully and efficiently performed their duties.

Then we have had the development of the Imperial conference, and, as the leader of the opposition stated, we have had this development through various phases during the war down to the recent conferences of 1923 and 1926. But it is clear that in recent years there has not been any overt attempt on the part of the British government to restrain or restrict in any particular the absolute authority of the several dominions in the administration of their domestic affairs. It is