

The efforts of Canadian statesmen during the years immediately following the creation of the Dominion were, as you know, mainly devoted to the consolidation of Confederation and the strengthening of the national fabric. Not only were the successive steps in that direction made on strictly national lines but the tariff policy introduced by Macdonald and under which the industrial and general prosperity of the Dominion were assured was established on the same basis, as its very name implied. The National Policy was, in fact, as one of Macdonald's biographers has well said, "the crystalization of the rising national sentiment of the Dominion." So much in fact was this the case that to the objection raised in certain quarters that the National Policy would jeopardize British connection some of Macdonald's leading newspaper organs went so far as to declare "*So much the worse for British connection*".

In the establishment and consolidation of the Dominion; in the tariff policy and in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway to which Macdonald frequently referred as CANADA'S GREATEST NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT, the steadfast aim of Canadian statesmen was to strengthen the NATIONAL STATUS of the Dominion. But most important and significant from the viewpoint of the vital problem we are now considering is the basis upon which Canada's military policy was established. The basic principles of that policy approved at Confederation it must be remembered embodied a recognition of the principles which had been enunciated from the very beginning of British rule in the North American colonies and of the understandings reached at various times with the Imperial authorities previous to the establishment of the Dominion. It is of the utmost importance that we should have a clear understanding of those principles and agreements in order that we may estimate later developments in their true light.

Briefly, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, the records show that the respective obligations of the Mother country and the colony as regards the military burden were