

Canada has ceased to occupy the position of an ordinary possession of the Crown. She exists in the form of a powerful Central Government, having already no less than seven subordinate local executive and legislative systems, soon to be largely augmented by the development of the vast regions lying between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains. Her Central Government is becoming even more responsible than the Imperial Government for the maintenance of international relations towards the United States, a subject which will yearly require greater prudence and care, as the populations of the two countries extend along, and mingle across the vast frontier line, three thousand miles in length.

The Canadian Government has, in short, become the trustee for the Empire at large, or half the continent of North America, and is bound to administer the trust not only for the benefit of the present limited population, but with the intention and policy of making the great resources of the Dominion in the highest measure promotive of the interests of the British people and the dignity of the Crown.

The organisation, government, and settlement of the vast regions of British North America are all subjects which the Canadian Government must desire to deal with in the common interest of all, while in trade and commerce it is daily becoming more evident that advantage would arise in definitely settling such arrangements between the United Kingdom and her vast dependency as may produce more thorough identity of interest and more uniform policy towards each other, and towards foreign nations.

It appears to the Canadian Government eminently desirable to provide for the fullest and most frank interchange of views with Her Majesty's Government, and for the thorough appreciation of the policy of Canada on all points of general interest. Otherwise there appears to be danger of a feeling growing up of indifference, if not of actual antagonism and irritation on both sides. The idea must be avoided that the connection of Canada with the British Empire is only temporary and unabiding, instead of being designed to strengthen and confirm the maintenance of British influence and power.

It is now being found in practice that there are constantly questions arising, connected with the administration of affairs in Canada, requiring discussions in a mode, and to an extent wholly impracticable by the ordinary channel of correspondence through the Governor General; and periodical visits have to be made to London for this purpose by the important members of the Canadian Government, entailing serious inconvenience. At this moment the following subjects are thus under consideration: The Pacific Railway, and important collateral subjects—Treaties of Commerce with France and Spain—Esquimaux Graving Dock—Military defence of Canada generally, and of British Columbia more especially—while the fishery and commercial clauses of the Washington Treaty may, at any moment, be re-opened by the United States; with many other matters of importance connected with the better organisation of the military force of the Dominion.

It is manifestly impossible that the views of the Canadian Government on such subjects can be submitted for the intelligent consideration of Her Majesty's Government in any other mode than that of personal communication; and as the subjects themselves relate to different departments of administration, the necessity arises for the absence from their posts at this moment of not less than three Ministers.

It is further submitted that the very large and rapidly augmenting commerce of Canada, and the increasing extent of her trade with foreign nations, is proving the absolute need of direct negotiations with them for the proper protection of her interests. In most of the treaties of commerce entered into by England, reference has only been had to their effect on the United Kingdom; and the Colonies are excluded from their operation, a fact which has been attended with most unfortunate results to Canada, as relates to France. This is, to a certain extent, unavoidable, in consequence of the control of all customs having been granted to Canada; but a necessity has thus arisen for providing separate and distinct trade conventions with all foreign powers with whom Canada has distinct trade. With the different views held by the Parliament of Canada on such subjects, from those of Her Majesty's Government, there is a manifest difficulty in asking the latter to become responsible for the representations required to be made, and foreign governments find it difficult to understand our present system. The Canadian Government therefore submit that when occasion requires such negotiations to be undertaken, Her Majesty's Government should advise Her Majesty specially to accredit the representative of Canada to the foreign court, by association for the special object, with the resident Minister or other Imperial negotiator.

The suggestion is merely asking Her Majesty's Government to establish as a rule the precedent which was created in 1871, when Sir John A. Macdonald was made a member of the Joint High Commission to Washington, and later, in 1874, when