

CRITICISM OF THE ADDRESS.

In a letter to the "Ottawa Citizen", Mr. Wickham said:

"Having read the report of Mr. Ewart's paper on Canada's future in your columns, I ask space to say that the picture drawn by him falls far short of the ideal which I venture to think will appeal to a vast majority of Canadians—namely, an ultimate combination, federation, or agreement—call it by what name you will—which will provide for mutual defence and adequate machinery for dealing with foreign relations. The future of Canada as a probably dominant factor in such a world-wide empire, is far brighter than any other that I can conceive.

During the period which must ensue in which the self-governing dominions are growing to a full and equal nationhood, there should be a working arrangement to provide for mutual defence. The ultimate combination would amount to an offensive and defensive alliance between the different parts of dominions of the empire of a permanent character sufficient to ensure the stability of the empire. Whether or not the foreign relations of the empire shall be handled from a common centre must, it appears to me, from sheer necessity be left to the future. Time and the occasion will no doubt produce the statesman of sufficient calibre to deal with this question; but with the forces of the empire (naval and military) organized on a pre-concerted plan, to ensure their working together harmoniously in any emergency, we shall be free to work out our destiny without fear of molestation. In the meantime, what is the position of Canada? Canadians are (relatively to other world-powers) a sparse population, occupying a vast territory full to the brim of those natural resources and national riches for which other world-powers are hungering, and which we at present are permitted to enjoy unmolested solely by reason of the strong protecting arm of the British navy. We do not sufficiently realize this fact. We are like hothouse plants, unaware that the atmosphere in which we live is, metaphorically speaking, artificially heated. It is sometimes said that we are justified in relying on the Monroe doctrine and the protection of the United States. I, for one, repudiate this suggestion, not only as unworthy, but as suicidal to our own interests. I have no idea that we shall be allowed to lean upon this support without payment of the full price—namely, the loss of our national status as a separate nation, besides which, it is not long since the United States themselves felt grateful that the existence of the British navy made it possible for them to work out one phase of the Monroe doctrine, without interference from other European powers.

But Canada must develop along all national lines, otherwise she will grow up lopsided. For this reason alone it would be wrong for Canada to contribute in cash to the upkeep of the British navy, a