

were she engaged in a life and death struggle, there are many Canadians who are not ready to take part in the secondary wars of England or to contribute to the defence of the empire in any part of it. Amongst the men who have taken that view, amongst those who have stated, time and time again, that it would not be fit for Canada to take part in the secondary wars of England or to contribute to the defence of the empire at large, one of the most, if not the most eminent, is my hon. friend who leads the opposition. My hon. friend has spoken more than once upon this subject. He has written upon this subject. He has not been content to wait to discuss this question until it arose, but went to the trouble of writing to the press and the higher magazines in order to educate public opinion and to show what should be the true position of Canada in this respect.

In an article published in the *Nineteenth Century*, October, 1892, under the title 'Federating the Empire,' my hon. friend, under his own name, discussed this very question we are now discussing, and thus spoke of it:

And now comes the next question, that of defence. No one can fail to see how advantageous it would be for England to appear before the world with the knowledge, on the part of every foreign country, that she was not standing alone, but acting with the united influence and support of these great British dominions which, at no distant day, will have a population larger than that of Great Britain. The moral weight and the prestige thus given would be considerable, but the means of concerting united action for the defence between those outlying portions of the empire and the government of the day here would be the most effective and practical method by which they could aid and support each other.

Many persons, I am aware, both in the colonies and here, have looked upon the question of the defence of the empire as best promoted and secured by a direct contribution to the support of the army and navy of this country. That I regard as a very mistaken opinion, and I believe that there is a much more effective means of promoting the object in view. In my opinion, no contribution to the army and navy of England on the part of Canada would have contributed to the defence of the empire in a greater degree than the mode in which the public money in Canada has been expended for that purpose. We have expended, in addition to an enormous grant of land, over a million pounds sterling per annum, from the first hour that we became a united country down to the present day, in constructing a great Imperial highway across Canada from ocean to ocean, not only furnishing the means for the expansion of trade and the development of Canada, but providing the means of inter-communication at all seasons between the different parts of the country. Louis Riel and a mere handful of half-breeds were able to terrorize the whole of the North-west of Canada in 1870 for half a year, until the arrival of Lord Wolseley, who occupied three months in reaching that place after the spring opened. Lord Wolseley could now perform the same journey within two days. On the last occasion in which a rising occurred, in

1885, but ninety miles of the Canadian Pacific Railway remained incomplete. In twenty-four hours 4,000 men had volunteered from every part of Canada to go at once to the North-west, and the disturbance was quelled without calling upon this country for the slightest assistance. We have, therefore, not only provided the means of inter-communication, the means of carrying on our trade and business, but have also established a great Imperial highway which England might to-morrow find almost essential for the maintenance of her power in the east. Not only has Canada furnished a highway across the continent, but it has brought Yokohama three weeks nearer to London than it is by the Suez Canal. I give that as an illustration that there are other means which, in my judgment, may contribute much more to the increased strength and the greatness of the empire than any contribution that could be levied upon any of the colonies.

That was not all. In 1893, my hon. friend published a letter in the *Toronto Mail*, addressed to Mr. Casimir Dixon, Secretary in Canada of the Imperial Federation League. That letter was as follows:—

Victoria Chambers, 17 Victoria St.,  
London, S.W., January, 1893.

To Casimir Dickson, Esq.:

My dear Sir,—The pressure of important questions which I could not defer has prevented me dealing earlier with your letter of November last. When you remember that the Council of the Imperial Federation League embraces many strong free traders, you will see how impossible it must be at once to obtain unanimity in a proposal for preferential duties within the empire, and how important it was to obtain from all the committee what is contained in sections 36-37 of the report. The policy of the United Empire Trade League, which has received the support of the House of Commons, and of your branch, is making very steady and great progress in this country, and will, I believe, be adopted at no distant day. It is impossible to effect such a revolution in public opinion in this conservative country without much time and patience. Knowing, as I do, that the most active members of the Imperial Federation League were mainly intent on levying a large contribution on the revenues of the colonies for the support of the army and navy of Great Britain, I am delighted to have been able, almost single-handed, to obtain such a report from such a committee. Unfortunately, they captured Mr. Parkin, and, having used him here, are now using him in Canada to create the false impression that we do nothing to maintain the defence of the empire, instead of showing, as he truthfully could, that we have entitled ourselves to the gratitude of every man who has the interest of the empire at heart.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES TUPPER.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Read some more.

The PRIME MINISTER. I shall be very glad to gratify hon. gentlemen who want more of that kind of literature. There was a meeting here, about two years ago, of the British Empire League. Sir Charles Tupper is reported to have spoken as