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spite the sympathetic attitude of the American administration in 1849, all efforts failed, and reciprocity was not secured until five years later.

What was the country to do? The British Parliament still maintained the Navigation Laws handicapping Canadian ports and shippers; it had done away with the preference to the colonies, and had, in so doing, brought Canada to the verge of bankruptcy; the preference could not be secured again, and reciprocity with the United States was denied. To many it seemed that one single remedy was available—annexation to the United States. All the commercial and political ills of Canada were, apparently, traceable to British connection, and to many it seemed therefore that the only logical course was to sever that connection, and join with the more prosperous and contented nation to the south. In this way arose that very serious annexation movement of the year 1849. The Canadian of 1913 may criticize the famous Montreal Annexation Manifesto of 1849, but he must admit that its arguments appealed to a very large number of people. Montreal was only a small place then, but over 1,200 of her citizens signed the manifesto, and among the 1,200 were very many of her most prominent citizens. A similar manifesto was prepared in Toronto. In the county of Sherbrooke, at a bye-election held early in 1850, an avowed annexationist was elected to the Assembly. Fortunately the bulk of the Canadian people were unwilling to embrace such a remedy as annexation, and with returning prosperity and the repeal of the Navigation Laws, the movement died out.

Now, what lesson has all this history for us? Just this: Canadian attachment to the Mother Country is best fostered and increased by a scrupulous adherence to the principle of local autonomy. Serious discontent with British connection was caused in 1846 to 1849: (1) by restrictions placed by the British Parliament on the power of the Canadian Parliament to deal with local affairs; (2) by taking away from Canada an artificial preference which could not be continued without injury to the people of the United Kingdom; (3) by applying fully in Canada the system of responsible government, even when the Parliament was passing questionable legislation. Let us now see the application of all this to the present. Britain long ago ceased to interfere with the management of our local affairs, but if we decide on a permanent policy of contribution, we shall have taken a long retrograde step towards a state of affairs in which a strong central government would be able to dictate to us. At first it might be only in naval matters. Later it might be in other things—affairs we have heretofore managed for ourselves. No one can foresee the end. Such dictation would inevitably lead to serious dissatisfaction, if nothing worse. In 1846 Great Britain abolished an artificial preference to the colonies, and in so doing precipitated a very serious annexation movement in Canada; and yet, for several years past, an influential body of men in Great Britain and Canada have been doing their best to establish such a preference on colonial grain as the British workman believes will increase the price of his food. Dearer food would again lead to an agitation for repeal; the preference would again be abolished, and then we should again have serious discontent in Canada. The Canadian Assemblies had infinite trouble in securing complete control of the spending of the money raised in Canada by taxation, and yet some would lightly hand over the spending of immense sums yearly to a Government quite beyond our control. This, too, would inevitably lead to serious discontent sooner or later.

Economic and political discontent in 1849 led to a demand for separation from the Mother Country, since the ills suffered seemed to arise from British connection. Economic and political discontent in 1925 or 1930 will lead to the same demand if, in the meantime, British connection has brought us, not continued freedom, but harassing restrictions and material loss. The centralist is loyal, but unwise, and his schemes are the greatest present menace to the continued growth and permanence of the empire.

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