

its statesmen will find much more difficult than any that Canadian statesmen have to solve on account of the existence of a French nationality who possess the lively intelligence of their race, exercise all the privileges of self-government, and, above all things, must comprehend that their true interests lie in a prosperous Canadian confederation, and not in union with a country where they would eventually lose their national identity. The Federal Union gives expansion to the national energies of the whole Dominion, and at the same time should afford every security to the local interests of each member of the federal compact. In all matters of Dominion concern, Canada is a free agent. While the Queen is still the head of the executive authority, and can alone initiate treaties with foreign nations—that being an act of complete sovereignty—and appeals are still open to her Privy Council from Canadian courts within certain limitations—it is an admitted principle that so far as Canada has been granted legislative rights and privileges by the Imperial Parliament—rights and privileges set forth explicitly in the British North America Act of 1867—she is practically sovereign in the exercise of all those powers as long as they do not conflict with treaty obligations of the parent State or with Imperial legislation directly applicable to her with her own consent. It is true that the Queen in council can veto Acts of the Canadian Parliament, but that supreme power is only exercised under the conditions just stated, and can no more be constitutionally used in the case of ordinary Canadian statutes affecting the Dominion solely, than can the Sovereign to-morrow veto the acts of the Imperial Parliament—a prerogative of the Crown still existent, but not exercised in England since the days of Queen Anne, and now inconsistent with modern rules of Parliamentary Government. In a limited sense there is already a loose system of federation between England and her dependencies. The Central Government of England, as the guardian of the welfare of the whole empire, co-operates with the several governments of her colonial dependencies, and by common consultation and arrangement endeavours to come to such a determination as will be to the advantage of all the interests at stake. In other words, the conditions of the relations between England and Canada are such as to ensure unity of policy as long as each Government considers the interests of England and the dependency as identical, and keeps ever in view the obligations, welfare, and unity, of the empire at large. Full consultation in all negotiations affecting Canada, representation in every arbitration and commission that may be the result of such negotiations, are the principles which have been admitted