

as in the defence of the Empire. *There is no other alternative* (pp. 154, 209-10, 215).

Menace to colonial autonomy

If the colonials shirk that duty and refuse to make their choice, they will soon be incapable of preserving the scanty measure of autonomy they now enjoy. "Citizens who have actually developed the capacity for government will tend to lose it unless it is "used to the full" (p. 20).

This timely reflexion deserves to be carefully meditated in the light of recent events, of what has happened especially in the last two years. Who, in CARTIER's or MACDONALD's time, thought that the day would ever come when Canada would raise an army of five hundred thousand men, to be kept up in Europe at Canada's cost, for England's benefit, and that the full and absolute command of that army would be abandoned to British officers, under the exclusive authority of the British government? Who, but five years ago — with the exception of a few 'hare-brained' Nationalists — ever suggested that, by 1914, the British government would have seized the whole mercantile navy of Canada, regulated the kind and quantity of Canadian exports, and dictated to the Canadian government, not only war tactics, but also numerous measures of a purely administrative character? The war has practically transformed the governments of the so-called 'sister-nations' into mere executive bureaux of the Imperial government.

"On paper their autonomy in local affairs remained as before " 'absolute, unfettered, and complete.'¹ But in practice those "affairs were all profoundly modified by the exigencies of war. "Schemes of development were cancelled, projects of social reform "were suspended, and the people of the Dominions suddenly "discovered that the issues of peace and war are an interest which "overmasters all others. They have found that until they control "that interest *their control of all others is purely provisional.*" (p. 110).

If the Dominions wish to remain within the Imperial circle, and at the same time preserve their dignity — and liberty — as self-governing nations, they must *demand* and *exercise* the same authority as that exercised by the United-Kingdom on foreign

¹ Words of Mr. ASQUITH at the Imperial Conference, 1911.