

of their prophecy was: "Your Empire will break into pieces; your distant Possessions will not remain true to you." That has been falsified. When later these provinces federated, the prophets again stood up and said: "Ah, what we told you is coming, but in a different way. They have not broken away previously, but now they are making nations out of themselves and they will assuredly sever their connection with the Old Country." Again the prophets prophesied without any basis: for if there is one thing more marked than another, it is the seeming paradox that, just as soon as, and in proportion as, we became nationalised in parts we became the more strongly imperialised as a whole. To-day in Canada we are taunted with being more loyal than subjects of the King in the British Islands. I am not saying whether we are or not—I am not making that claim; but this I am saying—that we are more Imperial than we were before the federation of Canada and the establishment of our new national life.

THE FEELING OF INTERDEPENDENCE.

Since those federation times—Lord Grey knows as well as I, for he has had the experience—what has been the dominant feeling? This: a spirit and sense of interdependence and mutual helpfulness between these oversea federated Dominions with each other and with the Empire itself. Their attention was not monopolised by the new creation; they were not filled up with the idea that now they were young nationalities they must think only of themselves. But in proportion as they grew in nationhood, they grew in the practical feeling of interdependence one upon the other, and Dominion called to Dominion, and each called to the Motherland: "Is there anything in which we may be helpful to each other? Anything in which we can co-operate and encourage each other?" And the history of Canada and the other Dominions is a series of evolutions of helpful, co-operative, and co-ordinating work between these oversea Dominions and the Motherland and with the other oversea Dominions. To-day we have postal and cable and steamship communications, subsidised and supported by different parts of the Empire. We have the growing assimilation of our laws—commercial and other—doing away with hindrances between the trade and communication of the Mother Country and the Dominions. To make a long story short, we have done many things; not the least is that instead of jealously claiming all the trade we possibly could get, and to our own advantage, these oversea Dominions have given to each other, and have given to the Motherland, preferential treatment. You may like it or not. You may say that it conflicts with your theories or not. We gave it to you. You accepted it with a fairly smiling countenance, and to-day it is operative. We gave to the Mother Country better commercial treatment than we give to any stranger country. We give to other of the Dominions better treatment than we give to those who do not belong to our sisterhood. That is something in the way of binding and bringing together, and showing that because we have become young nations, we have not become utterly selfish. And with nothing even a little like boasting, let me say that the Dominion of Canada, when the West India Islands fell upon hard times, held out the hand as best we could and gave to those Islands for fifteen years the advantage of a 33½ per cent. preference in our markets, and we did not ask and did not expect any return. Seed sown on the waters sometimes brings forth bread, and after these fifteen years, under better and more favourable circumstances, we have just concluded, and in the course of a few weeks will put into operation, a mutual preference trade agreement between the main