

In proof of this, it is sufficient to refer to the Canadian preference, the sending of Canadian contingents to South Africa to fight for the integrity of the Empire, Imperial penny postage, with which the distinguished patron of this Club, Sir William Mulock, will ever be honourably associated and the all British Pacific cable—to these must now be added the preference given to the trade of Canada and the other parts of the Empire by the Customs Union of South Africa and the preference granted by New Zealand. Equally important is the system of periodical conferences at which the common interests of the Empire will be discussed by representatives of the British Dominions beyond the seas.

It is now an easy matter to prove that the disintegration of this great Empire would be disastrous to the best interests of Canada and Great Britain, and also would be the greatest blow that could be struck at the interests of liberty, civilization and humanity.

It has become a maxim that the existence of the Empire and the security of Great Britain depend on the maintenance of British sea power. Without such coaling stations as Halifax on the Atlantic and Esquimalt on the Pacific the maritime supremacy of British naval power would be seriously jeopardized.

The secession of Canada from Great Britain would probably therefore spell the loss of naval supremacy by the British Empire and danger to the safety of Great Britain. It is fortunate, therefore, that in connection with and as an integral part of the British Empire Canada can reach her highest development.

There has been a good deal of discussion as to whether the marvellous industrial development of the United States has been due more to the system of protection against foreign countries or to the system of free trade between the States comprising the union.

I shall not enter into that controversy, but would claim that the great progress of the United States is due largely to the fact that between 1821 and 1900 over six million eight hundred thousand emigrants went from Great Britain and Ireland to the United States, a number exceeding the present population of Canada. In addition hundreds of millions of British money were invested in the development of the great natural resources of the United States.

The British Empire contains within its limits greater undeveloped national resources than were ever possessed by the United States.

It seems to me, therefore, that it should not be beyond the capacity of British statesmanship to devise means for making it advantageous that the surplus population of various parts of the Empire should emigrate to other parts of the Empire, rather than to foreign countries.

All British emigrants coming to Canada add to the strength of the Empire. The purchases of British goods by Canadians are per capita many times those of the Americans. Some of our friends object to the people of the United States monopolizing the word "American," but the name "Canadian" is good enough for me.