

plete independence of Canada, holding that the colonial status was a detriment and that the sooner the Dominion assumed the full status of a nation the better it would be. But Galt's proposal at that time was regarded as revolutionary and found few adherents even amongst those who chafed at Imperial interference.

In the early days of Confederation Canadianism or Canadian nationalism found further expression in the founding of what was known as the CANADA FIRST party. The young men of Toronto who in 1870, organized the Canada First movement were all staunch and ardent Canadians. Their actual proposals, as has been truly said by the historian of the movement, were of less importance than the stimulus which they gave to the national aspirations, their call to Canada to depend not on British or American patronage in commerce or in politics but on herself. Canadian individuality vigorously worked out on lines not unconnected with British connection was the keynote of their policy. It was at this period, too, that Edward Blake well described as the greatest intellect of the Liberal party shocked the political dry bones by his famous Aurora discourse in which he urged the creation of a stronger national spirit on the part of Canadians. National spirit declared the great Liberal statesman would be lacking until national responsibilities were assumed. The Canadian people he described as "four millions of Britons who are not free." By the policy of Great Britain in which Canadians had no voice or control, he pointed out, the Dominion might be plunged into the horrors of war. But Canadians could not complain of these things, added Blake, unless they were prepared to assume the full responsibilities of citizenship within the Empire. Blake's proposal, however, was not for the assumption by the Dominion of full national status but of representation in the Imperial Parliament.

The Canada First movement also had the zealous support and encouragement of Goldwin Smith, distinguished alike as a scholar and writer, and for many years a keen