

accounted for on the theory that the Dominion Cabinet was held by some critics to have gone too far in what it did, or permitted to be done, during the South African War. Those French-Canadians had still to be reckoned with who say that they do not believe that Canada has any such duty to the Empire. Moreover there can be no doubt that in the course of a natural development the ideal of nationalism is, in the case of Canada, rapidly displacing the colonial status. Anything that may seem to involve a real sacrifice of independence is certain to be looked on with jealous eyes throughout the Dominion. This hardly excuses, however, the illogical *non sequitur* by which the Canadian Ministers intimated that they would not be prepared to discuss Imperial defence at the conference of 1902, on the ground that no one scheme of defence could be devised that would suit the circumstances of each and all of our oversea possessions. Mr. Lyttelton and some of the other colonial governments may have been going too far and too fast. Whether that be so or not, it is of importance, on the eve of another conference, to note that it was Canada that applied the drag. In a circular note sent to the Governors of the self-governing colonies shortly before going out of office (Nov. 29th. 1905) Mr. Lyttelton says: "In deference to the views expressed by the Government of the Dominion of Canada it seems to be desirable to postpone further discussion of these matters until the meeting of the next conference." Otherwise it must be obvious to those who now have the papers before them that the Colonial Secretary would have proceeded to carry out the undertaking with which he had concluded his former dispatch of April 1905: "If His Majesty's Government find that there is sufficient *prima facie* agreement on the part of the colonial governments, they will cause a more definite scheme for the constitution of the commission to be prepared and forwarded to the colonial governments for their observation."

Unless the question has been allowed by this time to go by default, it will be for the Canadian representatives to show