

14. Imperialist

It is clear that as a Conservative and a traditionalist, Pope was a die-hard Imperialist, in conformity with his family background and the background of his close association with Sir John A. Macdonald. It has already been noted that Earl Grey, in 1907, referred to Pope as "a great Imperialist, an official of the Old School (I wish we had more men like him at Whitehall)". To him Great Britain was the mother country, and Canada was unquestionably still a British dependency, notwithstanding Macdonald's concept, at Confederation, as a "co-ordinate and allied" Kingdom of Canada. In a letter to Mr. David Matheson of Montreal, Pope wrote: "It is simply impossible to imagine that the Parliament or Government of Great Britain, with the experience of Hanover before them, would permit us to exist as a sovereign state under the Crown of England." In a letter to the editor (E.J. Chambers) of The Parliamentary Companion, each annual edition of which Pope habitually scrutinized for errors, he wrote on April 16, 1912, criticizing the use of the terms "the British Parliament" and "the British Government." "By these expressions, of course, you mean the Parliament and Government of the United Kingdom,^{*} but why should we give up to the people of England, Scotland and Ireland the exclusive use of the word 'British'. Is not our Parliament and Government a British Government and Parliament? Are we not British people? Why should we surrender this glorious designation? At a

* This seems to be a very early use of this term "United Kingdom", for it was not generally adopted in lieu of Great Britain until many years later.