

CANADA FOR THE CANADIANS

Mr. President, and Members of the Canadian Club;

I appreciate very highly the extraordinarily kind words in which you, Sir, have introduced me to this gathering which contains so many of my friends; and the honour which you have done me in asking me to address you before I leave Canada. In truth, you do us of the University altogether too much honour at these meetings. We cannot appear without being haled up to the high table, and though many of you must have had occasion long ago to become tired of our voices, you ask us to speak out of all proportion more frequently than our numbers would justify. But we are not puffed up. For the truth will out—in unguarded moments. Some time ago I was dining with one of your most prominent business men, and my very good friend, and he took occasion to attack Mr. Arthur Balfour in characteristically trenchant manner; so trenchantly that though I detest Balfour's politics, I felt bound to say something on his behalf as a man, upon the basis of a very slight personal acquaintance. But my friend would not have it. 'No,' he said, 'I have no use for him, Balfour is a *futile* person.' And then came the illuminating flash. 'Now I tell you what! He'd make a very good man of your sort—a professor, you know!' A political friend who was present thought to improve matters by recalling Lord Palmerston's remark—was it not?—that the Germans were a nation of damned professors. But here it seemed to me that he chose his ground badly, and I could not help pointing out that we professors have one advantage in that when we have occasion to allude to the politicians we are saved the trouble of putting in the qualification.

But, gentlemen, I was conscious of the little rift we occasionally hear of between the academic and the business worlds, when it came to the choice of a topic in which you could be interested and I could have anything to say. Fortunately there appeared at this moment the very weighty report of the North American Conference on the conservation of national resources, and I chose the phrase 'Canada for the Canadians' as a title under which I could urge upon your attention this most striking and important document. But last week you had it expounded to you by Hon. Sidney Fisher, who represented us at the Conference, with far greater authority than I could bring to the task. Nevertheless, so vital is the subject in my judgment, I shall venture to re-enforce the minister's address with one or two illustrations, before saying some