

Ministers"—I always thought it had rather an offensive sound—the more dignified expression of "His Majesty's Canadian Ministers." I am glad to say that that expression "His Majesty's Canadian Ministers," which struck the ear at first as somewhat odd, like all new expressions however true they may be, now sounds as familiar as it is correct, and that it is becoming pretty generally adopted, not only in Canada, but also in the other self-governing states of the Empire. It will be satisfactory to you, gentlemen, to reflect, when this expression becomes universal, that the change sprang from Ottawa, the home and the seat of so many Imperial developments. (Applause).

Now, gentlemen, while I have never talked of Canada as a colony, or Canadians as colonials, and while it has been my practice to refer to the federal ministers not as "My Ministers," but as "His Majesty's Canadian Ministers," so it has also been my practice when referring to the loyalty of Canada to speak of her loyalty not to England but to the Empire. (Applause). Some of you may say, why should Canada be loyal to the Empire, over whose affairs she has no control? I have already said that the more you add to the wealth, to the population and to the strength of Canada the more you are adding to the strength and to the dignity of the Empire. I recognize, apart from that, that at present the people of Canada have no choice in the administration of the Empire, but the time is coming, you can see it approaching, when the people of Canada will demand to be admitted into a fuller participation in the obligations and responsibilities of the Empire. (Cheers). The privilege of bearing this burden is at present vested, and vested by consent of the Dominions, in the Parliament of the United Kingdom. I know no privilege greater than that which I own as an Englishman of bearing perhaps more than my share of the burden of Empire. I feel like Henry V at Agincourt "By God, I would not lose so great an honour as one man more would take from me, for the best hope I have!" The people of England are content to carry the burden of Empire single-handed until you are ready to come to their assistance; and every one of them who has ever been in Canada and who has had the good fortune and the privilege which I have enjoyed, of knowing the depth and the sincerity of the Canadian heart, realizes that Canada will be only too glad to come to the assistance of the peoples of the United Kingdom in every way that is possible to help them to carry a burden which might otherwise become too great for them to carry, as soon as the times are ready for you to do so. (Loud applause). But at present, gentlemen, the privilege of bearing the whole burden of Empire is vested, and with your consent, in the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The Parliament of the United Kingdom is the trustee and the guardian of the great inheritance into which you will one day enter; and inasmuch as you are destined one day, by reason of your wealth, of your population and of your strength, to be the most powerful partner in the Empire, not even excluding the United Kingdom itself, the way in which the Parliament of the United Kingdom is administering that trust must necessarily be to you a matter of the deepest concern. (Applause).