

would not be the best form of assistance to the Imperial Government. He thought that possibly South Africa might wish to have a small navy in its own waters, and if they went on those lines they would see good effects.

Mr. Merriman, a leading member of the Assembly, in the course of the same debate stated that he thought Canada had embarked on a dangerous course in having a Minister residing in London who was to be a sort of partner to be dragged into the policy of Great Britain and its warlike enterprises. He could not imagine a more mad and insensate policy for a young country.

IMPERIAL UNITY AND LOCAL AUTONOMY MUST GO TOGETHER.

While the self-governing Dominions have given expression in this frank and open manner to their opposition to any policy of contribution based upon an idea of centralization in naval affairs, they have not deemed it necessary to assert that their loyalty to the British Empire could not be challenged. As a matter of fact, with the growth of self-government, the self-governing Dominions have become more strongly attached to the British Crown. Imperial unity and local autonomy have gone together.

The Rt. Hon. James Bryce, British Ambassador at Washington, made this very plain in a speech before the Canadian Club at Ottawa on March 9th in which referring to his recent visits to New Zealand and Australia, he said, "Both in Australia and New Zealand there has been of late years a very marked, palpable growth of the sentiment of Imperial unity. The spirit of Imperial unity which prevails in Australia and New Zealand has taken shape there, as it has here, in the desire to make arrangements for common defence with the United Kingdom, and then also they are considering what they will do for co-operation with the Imperial navy."

The real question at issue in Canada today is whether the British Empire is to be strengthened by Canada's adhering to the policy of self-government by the adoption of a naval service of her own, or whether Canada by entering upon a policy of contribution is to adopt a course opposed to that which all the other self-governing Dominions regard as best, and which is certain to lead to strained relations between this Dominion and the mother country.

British subjects who love Canada and the British Empire will do their utmost to see that the policy which Canada adopts is the one unanimously agreed to by both political parties in the Canadian parliament in March, 1909; a policy which is endorsed by the other self-governing Dominions; a policy which demands the speedy organization of a Canadian Naval Service."

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