

A Patriotic Policy.

That clause was drafted by the hand of a statesman. Look what it contains—the speedy organization of Canadian naval defence; no delay if the empire is in danger; in close relation to the Imperial navy, no separation of the daughter from the mother; no dispersion of the forces of the empire over seven seas; but Canada, as she ought—and shall I say as I hope she always will be—prepared to co-operate in full sympathy with the British navy in the security of commerce, the safety of the empire, and the peace of the world. The latter phrase of that resolution is to me as important as any. We agree, I think, on both sides of the House, that the naval supremacy of England is not sought for the glory of the British Empire alone; that she does not seek to maintain the sovereignty of the seas that her history may be perpetuated and that her people may rejoice in her supremacy; but that she has a higher and a nobler ambition, grander than any conceived except in the vision of the prophets of old—that her supremacy should promote our common christianity and maintain the peace of the world. And then, lastly—

The House expresses its firm conviction that whenever the need arises the Canadian people will be found ready—

—and willing to make any sacrifice that is required to give to the Imperial authorities the most loyal and hearty co-operation in every movement for the maintenance of the integrity and honour of the empire.

Cordial Reception of Policy.

These resolutions were read from ocean to ocean, and the response to them was as cordial throughout the Dominion as it was in the House of Commons. They thrilled Canada with the thought that she had entered upon a new epoch in her history as on the day when she was initiated into the family of nations some forty years before; that she was about to take her place beside her royal mother to defend the constitution which gave England liberty, civil and religious, and in which we share so generously and so freely. And may I note here the chronological fact, that this resolution was adopted on the 29th day of March, 1909—the 42nd anniversary of the day on which Her Majesty the Queen signed the charter of Canadian liberty, the British North America Act. We join with all those who believe in the value of that Act in declaring that Her Majesty did nothing more for Canada of greater importance to the empire than the House of Commons did on the 29th of March when both parties united in a common purpose for the common defence of the empire. Now let me ask, who stood sponsors for that resolution? Particularly three men—Laurier, Borden, Foster. (I may be pardoned, as being guilty of no breach of courtesy, for not mentioning those names in connection with the titles usually attached to them.)

Laurier, Borden and Foster.

They are all leaders of public opinion, one for forty years a prominent figure in the House of Commons, the other two for a shorter period, but each in his own place maintaining the dignity of the Chamber, and commanding the confidence and respect of his friends. These three men stood sponsors, and in their views the whole Commons concurred. Let me read a word or two from the