

settled with native Canadians to absorb its foreign settlers in the same way. If the newcomers are to be attracted to our ideals they will need to find not only that they are fervently cherished by Canadians but that they are worthily reflected in our institutions. The Canadian spirit is to-day strong and it will every year become stronger. It cannot be too strong if it is to exercise a controlling influence among the new populations of the West and is to withstand the pressure of opposing or modified ideals that our newcomers may some day be numerous enough to set up. And that this spirit may be strong and not fail in the full measure of its appeal to the stranger, I believe that every tie with the mother country, not indispensable to our connection with the Empire, that denotes our colonial position and that hinders our national development, should be given up.

Canada has not, except in the Province of Quebec, and it is to be hoped it never will have, a jurisprudence distinctive from that of England. No break or change in our relations with the mother country could be a worse misfortune than that the development of our laws should proceed upon lines dissociated from those of England. Nor can one think that the future of the English common law on Canadian soil is not as safe as that of the English tongue. Superior as that system of law is to any that we in Canada could substitute for it, and indispensable as it is that the vital unity between our legal development and that of England should be maintained, there is singular cogency in the view that our courts of justice should be exclusively our own and that their subordination to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council should be brought to an end. The argument that a tribunal situate in England, free from all possibility or suspicion of bias or political prepossession, is necessary for the interpretation of the Canadian Constitution as well as in the case of ordinary civil disputes, can have no validity unless all confidence is to be withdrawn from Canadian courts and all other functions of self-government are to be given up. Nor can the argument obtain acceptance because of the great