

addressed to the people of the British Isles and to the civilised world at large. Before it was uttered, Sir Edward Grey deliberated with the ambassadors of the great powers; or at least he thought of the sentiment and the situation of the foreign nations they represent. That declaration of the British Government will be an object of consideration by the rulers of the smallest countries; it will be accounted for in the framing of their external policy. That speech has been read by every voter in the United Kingdom, from the peer of the realm to the humblest labourer. The British electorate may approve or condemn it, and will, by their suffrage, either uphold or repeal the policy enunciated by their Foreign Minister.

Alone, in the whole world, Canadians, New Zealanders, Australians, South Africans, have nothing to do with it. Subjects of His Britannic Majesty, that policy may and will affect them; but they have not the power to act upon it, either favourably or adversely, as the Germans, the Russians, the French, the Americans, the Chinese, the Belgians, the Swiss, the Dutch, may do ~~not~~ full liberty. As *with* citizens of the "sister-nations of the Empire", they may be called upon to pay the tribute of blood and money in order to uphold that policy, or in consequence of its adoption; but they do not share with the ratepayers of England, Scotland and Ireland, the right to express their satisfaction or their discontent by their votes, that ultimate expression of the will of a free people!

Can a more subordinate position be conceived?

In that situation, Canada finds, of course, many notable advantages. She thus escapes heavy burdens and serious inconveniences. But it shows also how far Canada is from being a nation, and, consequently, how illogical and unjust it is to try and make her assume the responsibilities of a nation, as Sir Wilfrid Laurier wanted her to do, by creating his Navy. As long as that position remains unchanged, it leaves without any foundation the doctrine of the jingo-imperialists, who claim that we should share with Great Britain the burden of Imperial armaments, by land and by sea, and thereby bear the consequences of a policy conceived, expressed and executed, without our consent, possibly to our detriment, by politicians and rulers over whom we cannot exercise the slightest control!