

relations to one another and to the empire, and the interests of the empire in its relations to foreign powers. Were the Home Government a consenting party to even this scheme, it would not be without the proviso that the colonies should bear their share thereafter of the general expenses of the empire in peace and war; and then would arise the difficult problems of what these shares should be, and whether the colonies are at present able, and, if able, willing to undertake them. Should, however, a General Council be satisfactory to the colonies, and could an adjustment of the finances be arrived at, there would still remain the grave doubt whether Great Britain, so long accustomed to retain the power itself, and to regard the colonies as mere dependencies, would be, at present, willing to admit them as equals in the administration of the affairs of the empire.

Quite apart from the difficulties thus in the way of carrying out the idea of an Imperial Confederation, it may with reason be questioned whether the causes which have suggested it here, have, in reality, such force as has been claimed for them. Since the Union has taken place, the Home Government has shown a desire to avoid the diplomatic blunders of years ago, and to give the Dominion a direct voice in negotiations with foreign powers, where Canadian interests were involved; and two well known Canadian leaders have on separate occasions been appointed Commissioners on behalf of Great Britain in negotiating treaties with the United States. There is no doubt that Great Britain appreciates the situation, and that every reasonable wish of Canada in this respect would be promptly met. If our representatives receiving such appointments are untrammelled by limiting instructions from the Colonial Office, and fulfil the trust reposed in them of furthering the interests of this country, what more need the people of the Dominion desire? If, on the other hand, these representatives fail to fulfil their trust, the existing political situation cannot be blamed for it. As to the liability of being drawn, through connection with Great Britain, into a foreign war in which Canada might have no interest, we may at present dismiss the thought. The power the most likely to menace Canada would be the United States, and that country has at last found its own territories quite large enough, and the South quite difficult enough to manage, without adding to their difficulties by attempting to coerce a strong and much more inimical people to the north of it; and, at