

regards the advantages of internal free trade to the empire as a whole, an appeal to experience should suffice. Consider the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States and it is obvious that in every case the adoption of internal free trade between the different states or provinces, was essential to the completion of national unity. What has proved good for the United States would prove even more beneficial to us by virtue of our greater variety of climate, soil and season. The great goal of the Empire builders today is Imperial federation and the necessary foundation of this is an Imperial Navy as a first line of defence and offence with an Imperial Army as a second and auxiliary line of defence. Unless this is realized by the component parts of the empire it is useless to theorize on the case with which federation or even a closer union between the Imperial family may be brought about, for if independent naval and military policies are adopted by the Colonies, there will surely set in a disintegration of the Empire, inasmuch as each part will grow estranged from the others, national affairs will become of greater importance than Imperial questions and the history of Ancient Greece will again be repeated in detail.

Today we have the choice of converting the project of an Empire into a real united and indissoluble Empire. Let us note the leading ideas free from detail:

(1) Imperial defence to which every Dominion, Commonwealth, or Dependency contributes its share.

(2) A system of representation by which every constituent part has a voice in the concern of the whole.

(3) An immense internal market for every part of the produce of all the constituents.

(4) A customs union and a common policy in commercial relations with foreign countries.

(5) A real sense of unity and brotherhood in which there is no distinction between the Briton of London, Liverpool or Glasgow and the Briton of Vancouver, Auckland or Cape Town.

Today there are two roads wide open before Canada. One to maintain her position within the Empire as the predominant partner in a sisterhood of States—the other to stand by and see that Empire fall to pieces in which case we may believe her very identity may be lost. It is our sacred duty to go forth as missionaries for the consolidation of this mighty Empire. Not only does our security depend upon its united strength but the peace and prosperity of the whole world is involved in its maintenance.

“Let us then, through good or ill,
Cleave to one another still,
Britain's loyal voices call
Sons, be welded one and all,
Into one Imperial whole:
One with Britain heart and soul
One Love, One King, One Flag, One
Throne!”

