

persons at a distance. All the speakers felt that the relation of Canada to the mother country was a peculiar one, and none seemed satisfied with the present working of that relation. All felt that Canada was to all intents and purposes independent so far as the management of her internal affairs was concerned, and yet not independent if any strain of war should come. British statesmen seemed to feel that in such a relation the mother country had the heavy end of the lever to work, involving immense sacrifices of hard labor and hard cash, without any corresponding tangible advantage. Earl Grey, on the spur of the moment, in what he felt to be the pressing perplexity of the case, and forgetful for the time of the constitutional system of Canada, would have a mandate issued from the Colonial Office in London, requiring the Governor General to summon the Canadian Parliament and obtain, if possible, more satisfactory legislation. And if their Lordships' views were not met, then the Imperial troops were to be withdrawn from Canada. This course would have a significance which would be patent to every one, and the significance of the fact that it was suggested by a statesman of Lord Grey's standing, ought to be no less patent to all discerning persons. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, with the sagacity of an old diplomatist, saw in such a discussion of Colonial relations only a hastening of "the period when the mother country would have to separate from her colonies." In the House of Commons the people and parliament of Canada were well rated by some members, while others kindly extenuated their shortcomings and benevolently apologised for them. One member characterised the relations between Canada and Britain as rotten and mutually deceptive. Another wanted the British Government to make the people of Canada understand the fact the English people did not care a farthing for the Colonial adherence of Canada. Another, and a cabinet minister, said that he looked forward without apprehension and without regret to the separation of Canada from England.

Now this is plain speech, and though spoken in the British Parliament, it was intended for use in Canada. Many of us

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