

Those causes operate with all the greater strength that they are not checked, in Canada, by the counterpoising influence of any other country close by.

From a purely national point of view, much could be said of the inconveniences resulting to Canada from that peculiar situation.

Upon such an occasion as the present one, it is more fitting, I think, to indicate the advantages Canada has derived from that radiation of forces originated in the United States; and above all, to point out in what manner that influence could be used to draw Canada to the cause of peace and arbitration.

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The services which the great American Republic has rendered, though unwillingly or unknowingly, to her young neighbour, have been of vital importance and of permanent effect.

In declaring their independence, the inhabitants of the thirteen English colonies opened the eyes of British statesmen to the dangers of Downing Street rule in the colonies. They thereby paved the way to our constitutional liberties, and, as a result, secured the consolidation of the British Empire.

In proclaiming the so-called "Monroe doctrine", at the urgent request of the British Foreign Secretary, George Canning, the United States practically made Canada safe from aggression on the part of the other nations. And this has been unreservedly accepted by all British foreign ministers from George Canning down to Sir Edward Grey.

It must be confessed that the Monroe doctrine is looked upon in Canada, to day, with much less favour than in Great Britain. Nevertheless, I venture to say that it should hold good, provided it grows broader and adapts itself to actual and coming circumstances, and is not lowered to the level of rank jingoism or narrowed to the measure of party exigencies or sordid interest.

As a declaration of the right and determination of all free communities in America to govern themselves unhampered by the domination or pressure of European nations — with due regard, of course, to existing rights — it ought to be kept alive, and Canada should stand by it as strenuously as the United States or any other free American community.

Naturally, if it is to endure, it must carry as a reciprocal consequence the abstention of American nations to interfere in the affairs of Europe, otherwise than for the protection of their citizens and the safeguard of their interests.

As between American communities, it should remain what it was meant to be: the exercise of a noble and disinterested prerogative on the part of the oldest and most powerful American nation, to uphold the rights and liberties of her younger sister nations, but never to be used as a "big stick" to bully and terrorise into subjection the weaker states of America.

On the other hand it should not be meant to abrogate the eternal laws of justice, applicable to all nations, at all times, and therefore not be invoked by any American community, last of all by the great English-speaking republic, against the right adjudication of any just claim on the part of any European or Asiatic nation.

Finally and above all, it should not be raised as an obstacle against the adoption of general laws of arbitration. On the contrary, it should be enlarged and enlivened so as to become one of the main supports of the noble doctrine to which this conference is devoted.

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It is by the evolution of the Monroe doctrine and its adaptation to the broader code of international arbitration that the people and government of