

of a Tariff Preference, those who were sincerely desirous of strengthening the ties between the self-governing Dominions and Great Britain, conceived that a strong political bond might be created on the basis of joint co-operation for the protection of common interests against possible foreign aggression,—by concerted action for establishing and maintaining the naval and military supremacy of the Empire. It is evident that neither of the over-seas Dominions can as yet stand alone among the Nations of the earth, many of which are greedy for territorial expansion as a means of obtaining profitable employment for their ever-increasing populations. Australia lives in constant fear of Chinese and of Japanese expansion. South Africa has Germany located on its Northern Border. Canada, as a whole, fears the possibilities that might result from the increasing Eastern Immigration; and, above all, that the economic and industrial necessities of its Southern neighbour for larger areas of agricultural lands and for vast supplies of the natural products of the forest, the mine and the sea, may already have induced its people to cast covetous eyes upon this peaceful Northern country. Perhaps this sentiment is not so fully shared by at least a minority of the people of the central Western Provinces, but on the Pacific Coast and from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic, I am confident that Canadians with few exceptions are convinced that the British connection is at present essential to assure the political future of Canada, and that that connection is far more consistent with our Canadian traditions, and far more honourable to both races in Canada than any other political connection which we could possibly form for safeguarding our national interests.

But the very possibility of foreign aggression has directed public attention in Canada to the whole scheme of our inter-imperial and international relations, at a time when other more or less irritating conditions have aroused in us a consciousness that we have outgrown the swaddling clothes of our existing colonial status. The legislative and administrative jurisdictions of Canada, in respect of which we enjoy responsible self-government, appear all too circumscribed in the light of incidents of almost daily occurrence.

A Canadian trips across the border to the United States and commits the crime of bigamy, by going through the form of marriage there, while his real wife is still living in Canada, and he and his newly wedded spouse may return to Canada and flaunt themselves, with impunity, as man and wife, in the eyes of his Canadian family.